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Local schools celebrate GCSE exam success

Slimmer shapes up for national challenge

Bev Hayman (left) and colleagues Gemma Hartley and Remi Jeffers from Skelmersdale's Co-Op Bank HQ with the foodbank donations delivered to the Ecumenical Centre

Bank staff's bumper deposit for foodbank

EMPLOYEES at the Co-operative Bank in Skelmersdale have been 'doing their bit' for the town's foodbank, which is based at the Ecumenical Centre opposte the Concourse Shopping Centre.

The bank staff have collected 52 kilos of food and 48 kilos of toiletries - including toothbrushes and toothpaste - over the last two months which they handed over to the foodbank this week.

Bev Heyman, community champion at the Co-operative Bank in Skelmersdale, said: "I want to thank all the staff for their donations, these will make a real difference."

DUNKIRK CRUISE HONOUR FOR SKEM VETERAN

Report by **Henry James**

A FORMER member of the armed forces from Skelmersdale who served in the Falklands and Gulf War has been invited to be on one of the boats which will be taking part in this year's Association of Dunkirk Little Ships Annual Veterans Cruise along the Thames.

Terry Beddoes, 62, from Ashurst, will travel down to the capital to be involved in the event on Saturday, September 2.

He also been invited to attend the Merchant Navy Day Service at the Merchant Navy Memorial at Tower Hill, London on Sunday, September 3.

Terry, who is now the treasurer of the Skelmersdale Royal Navy Association, served for 23 years in the navy and retired from the services in 1995.

During the Falklands he was a leading cook on the HMS Herald, which carried the wounded from the islands to Montevideo, Uruguay.

He was also a chief caterer on HMS Manchester during the First Gulf War.

The 2017 Veterans Cruise will be held over two days and will see 20 Little Ships, which will be based at Thames Motor Yacht Club, Hampton Court, travel along the river. On the Saturday there will be veterans from the Korean War and the Falklands, along with war widows, on the ships.

Meanwhile on the Sunday the vessels will carry veterans from the Second World War, including Dunkirk veterans, Normandy veterans, Arctic convoy veterans and coastal forces veterans.

For the first time women who served in the Wrens will also be on board.

There will also be some little ships which appeared in the new film Dunkirk - the Nyula, Elvin, RIIS 1, Endeavour and Hilfranor.

Terry commented: "I am very excited and honoured to have been invited to join the Dunkirk Little Ships Association for their annual cruise on the River Thames, more so in the light of the recent film.

"I also look forward to meeting some friends during the Merchant Navy Memorial Day at Tower Hill."

Terry Beddoes

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Personal visits mark final phase of voter registration canvass

HOUSEHOLDS in West Lancashire which haven't responded to an electoral enquiry form, will soon receive a visit to check whether information on the Electoral Register for that address is correct.

This marks the final phase of the borough council's annual voter registration canvass. The aim is to ensure that the electoral register is up to date and to identify any residents who are not yet registered so that they can be invited to do so.

The council's canvass officers will be working across the borough through September and October, calling at households which have not responded to the form this year.

Residents are being urged to ensure they are on the Electoral Register in order to be able to vote in forthcoming borough elections

If no one is at home, they will leave a calling card encouraging residents to respond, before making two further visits to the property. Households who responded to the form that was sent to them in July will not need a visit.

The annual canvass is an opportunity for people to check whether they're registered.

A council spokesman stated: "It's important for a healthy democracy that everyone who is entitled to vote is able to, and for those who need to register it is now easier than ever with the online system of registration."

West Lancashire Borough Council elections are scheduled to take place on Thursday, May 3 2018 and this is an opportunity for residents to make sure they will be able to take part.

Being on the electoral register can also impact on your credit score. If you are not registered it can cause delays when you apply for credit, and some organisations may turn you down if they feel they cannot confirm who you are or where you live.

Kim Webber, electoral registration officer at West Lancs Council, said: "Anyone who wants to vote must be registered. If your name is not listed on the form, it means you are not registered.

"Complete the form with the canvass officer or return one previously sent to you and then we'll send you information explaining how to register. Alternatively, once you return the form, you can visit http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or www.westlancs.gov.uk/registertovote and register to vote online.

"It's particularly important that anyone who has moved address recently looks out for the form and checks whether they are registered."

Any residents who have any questions can contact the elections team at Elections Office, West Lancashire Borough Council, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, L39 2DF, tel. 01695 585014 or by email at elections.office@westlancs.gov.uk.

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Light aircraft forced to land in farmer's field

FIRE and rescue services were called to a farmer's field in West Lancashire after receiving reports of a light aircraft making an unscheduled landing.

A spokesperson said no-one was injured in the incident and the plane, owned by Lomac Aviators which provides flight training from Liverpool John Lennon Airport, sustained only minor damage.

The plane landed in a field off Wood Lane, Parbold, owned by Snipe Hall Farm, on Monday, August 28. A spokesperson for West Lancashire Fire and Rescue Services said: "We received a call at 12.39pm from air traffic control at John Lennon Airport to say that a plane had come down in a farmer's field, somewhere in Parbold and we sent three fire engines to try and search for it.

"After finding it, we established that it had landed in the field safely causing only minor damage and no injuries."

Lancashire Constabulary said there were two people on board and confirmed that the plane had originated from the airport at Speke.

The plane landed in a field close to Parbold

Skembley rocks United!

SKEMBLEY 2017 – Festival of Fun took place last Sunday and saw a variety of bands raising money for the Down's Syndrome Association and Skelmersdale United.

On the day there was a mini fun fair with a bouncy castle and assault course and a variety of stalls.

The event was organised by Karen Brookes, former landlady at the Busy Bee pub, and Anita Abbott from Skelmersdale United FC.

Karen chose to raise the money for the Down's Syndrome Association as a family member of hers was born with the condition. She also wanted to do something to help Skelmersdale United.

Organisers had not released a figure of how much was raised as the Champion went to press but Karen said: "It was a fantastic day and we had perfect weather for it.

It was good to see the children enjoying themselves. The highlights were the rodeo bull and we had great performances from all the bands including Del Mundo who were brilliant.

"This was the first event we had done of its kind at Skelmersdale United. We are hoping, if we have still got the ground, we can make it bigger and better next year."

Raffle fund raisers (l-r) Norman and Kath Fenney along with Anita and Graham Abbott at last Sunday's Skembley Festival of Fun held in support of the Down's Syndrome Association and Skelmersdale FC.

Town's police station front counter spared axe

...but Ormskirk's will close to public from early next year

Report by **Henry James**

Ormskirk Police Station

LANCASHIRE Constabulary has confirmed that Ormskirk Police Station's front counter will be closed to the public from the start of next year as part of cost-cutting measures.

However, Skelmersdale Police Station's front counter will remain open - although its opening hours are yet to be confirmed.

The controversial move follows a review carried out by the constabulary and Lancashire's police and crime commissioner, Clive Grunshaw.

Police bosses have said that as few as three people a day were visiting some of 10 counters earmarked for closure, with people preferring to report incidents over the phone or online.

When the proposals were first announced at the end of June, West Lancs MP, Rosie Cooper described them as "worrying" and said she wanted to see local people have access to the police.

Police chiefs have said the closures will not affect the way areas are policed but, along with reduced opening hours at remaining front counters, will deliver more than £1m in annual savings of the £19.8m that the constabularly needs to find by 2020.

Currently the Skelmersdale front counter service is open from 9am to 8pm Monday to Saturday. It was proposed in June to change the hours to 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 6pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Police have said the changes are based on a detailed business case which looked at front counter usage across Lancashire throughout the year.

The proposals were then subject to public consultation by the police and crime commissioner which resulted in 91 responses.

Feedback from the public and stakeholders has been reviewed and police have commented that "no viable alternatives" have been presented to deliver the savings needed.

Skelmersdale Police Station - front counter will remain open to the public

Chief Superintendent Pete Lawson, head of contact and response, said: "The decision to close some of our front counters has not been taken lightly. It follows what has been a very thorough review and a period of staff and public consultation.

"That review showed a significant decline in visitor numbers - some down to changes in processes like immigration checks and some vehicle checks which have moved online, but in the main it is due to improved technology and greater use of phones."

He added: "Members of the public in the affected areas will still be able to contact local officers, engage with local policing teams and gain the help and support they need; it is just the way they do it which will change."

Clive Grunshaw commented: "The proposals in the consultation were based not just on reducing costs but also recognising that the public are choosing to engage with the police in different ways. This means that as demand falls the cost per interaction increases and the constabulary has to manage the continuing reductions in funding from government.

"I want to reiterate that this decision will not change the way areas are policed in any way. Officers will still be based at local police stations and work in these communities.

"The front counters which will close next year serve between three and ten people a day, while the demand on the contact centre is reaching around 2,500 calls a day. People have been voting with their feet for some time and we have to look at how the public want to report crimes and make sure we invest in the service to meet this demand."

The closures will start to come into effect early in 2018. Members of the public will still have access to the yellow telephones at each station and, where appropriate, will be able to make appointments to see local officers at the stations. Neighbouring stations will still be available for all other business.

The constabulary has said they will now work to minimise the impact on affected staff. Informal consultation with staff and unions has been ongoing with both groups involved in determining the future shape of the front counter service.

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Super-slimmer Jess shapes up for national challenge

Mum sheds seven-stone to earn Woman of the Year accolade

Report by **Henry James**

SUPER slimmer Jessica Watt is sizing up her next big challenge after winning her own private battle of the bulge.

The 28-year-old from Skelmersdale has been named as her Slimming World group's Woman of the Year 2017 after shedding an incredible seven stone.

Now the mum-of-two has been chosen to take part in the nationwide Woman of the Year 2017 competition which aims to find the UK and Ireland's most inspiring female slimmer.

The contest recognises the achievements of thousands of women in making long-term healthy lifestyle changes.

Happier

Jess, who has gone from a dress size 26 to a 16, said: "When I started out I never dreamt I'd be able to achieve all that I have. Losing the weight has made such a big difference - it's changed my life.

"My health is better, I have more energy to run around after my children and enjoy doing the things with them I've always wanted to do, rather than just watching them do it with other people. I'm much happier now - I definitely feel more comfortable in my own skin."

She joined Slimming World after becoming increasingly unhappy with her size and added: "I have always had a problem with my weight but really noticed my weight increasing after having my first child, Alfie.

"I was eating three or four takeaways a week and just not thinking about the food I was consuming, but when Alfie turned seven months old I decided something needed to change.

Before...and after

Jess pictured before taking up her new diet and fitness regime

The new-look Jess after losing an incredible seven stone

"When I first joined Slimming World after Alfie was born I lost four-and-a-half-stone.

"Then I had my second child, Sophie, and since returning to the group I have continued to lose another two-and-a-half stone."

Riders who took part in the stationary cycling fundraiser for Blossom's Legacy at the Concourse Shopping Centre

Sponsored bike ride raises £330 in memory of tragic Blossom Iris

THE wheels were definitely going round and round - although the bikes were going nowhere! - when a sponsored stationary cycling event was staged at the Concourse Shopping Centre, Skelmersdale in aid of the Blossom's Legacy charity.

The event, organised by Corrine Gibson, saw eight riders clock up an impressive 245 miles - the equivalent of the distance from London to Paris - and raise more than £330.

Blossom's Legacy was set up in memory of Skelmersdale youngster Blossom Iris Kelly who tragically died in an drowning accident while on a family holiday in Spain last year.

After being pulled from a hotel swimming pool the four-year-old was airlifted to hospital in Barcelona, but despite the best efforts of doctors there, her mother, Vicky had to make the agonising decision to switch off her life support machine.

Blossom had attended weekly lessons at a local swimming pool but had not yet learned to swim.

Following their loss, Vicky and dad Kris decided to start the charity, named Blossom's Legacy, with the aim of ensuring other parents didn't suffer the same heartache as them.

The charity was officially launched on Friday, June 16 of this year at St Francis of Assisi RC Primary School in Blakehall, where Blossom had attended the nursery.

Kris has commented: "Blossom's story will hopefully prevent the same thing happening to anyone else."

A spokesperson for Blossom's Legacy said: "All the funds raised will go towards educating, encouraging and embodying children with the skills and tools to allow them to be able to learn to swim from a very early age.

"Special thanks goes to Nye Bevan who provided the bikes for the stationary cycle event."

Members of Skelmersdale Veterans Association during a visit to Hotter shoes

Veterans group team up with Age UK

MEMBERS of Skelmersdale Veterans Association have met with employees at Lancashire Age UK to see how they can help each other.

The aim of the meeting was to see how both organisations can give support to veterans.

There is a scheme that gives 12 weeks support to veterans who were born before 1950 and provides information and advice. It also offers access to social events and opportunities.

Alan Lewis of Skelmersdale Veterans Association said: "This project allows us to build on the work we already do with older people and reach out to those veterans, family members and carers who need more support."

The service is delivered via home visits and at other facilities such as the Evermoor Hub Community Centre in Digmoor. For more information about the service email referrals@ageuklancs.org.uk or get in touch with Skelmersdale Veterans.

Meanwhile the Veterans Association will be starting a breakfast club for people who have been in the services. It will also be an opportunity to meet other veterans.

The veterans, who meet at the Hare and Hounds pub in Skelmersdale on the second Saturday of every month at 2pm, want to thank the businesses and organisations that have supported them, such as Hotter and Skelmersdale Action for Youth.

The veteran association are also holding a Military Dinner to mark the 100th anniversary of Passchendaele. For tickets email Alan Moore at svasec@outlook.com

The event will be held on Saturday, September 9 from 6.15 to 11pm.

Got a story? Ring the News Desk on 01704 392400

51-year-old Skem man charged with attempted abduction

A 51-YEAR-OLD man has appeared at court charged with attempted child abduction.

Ognyan Drenski, of Ennerdale, Tanhouse was charged with attempted abduction of a child and appeared at court on Wednesday, August 21.

A spokesman for Skelmersdale Police said: "We would like to thank those members of the public who have provided statements and assisted officers with their enquiries.

"Could we please remind people that this is still an ongoing case and the sharing of photographs and personal details on social media could cause issues when the case goes to trial."

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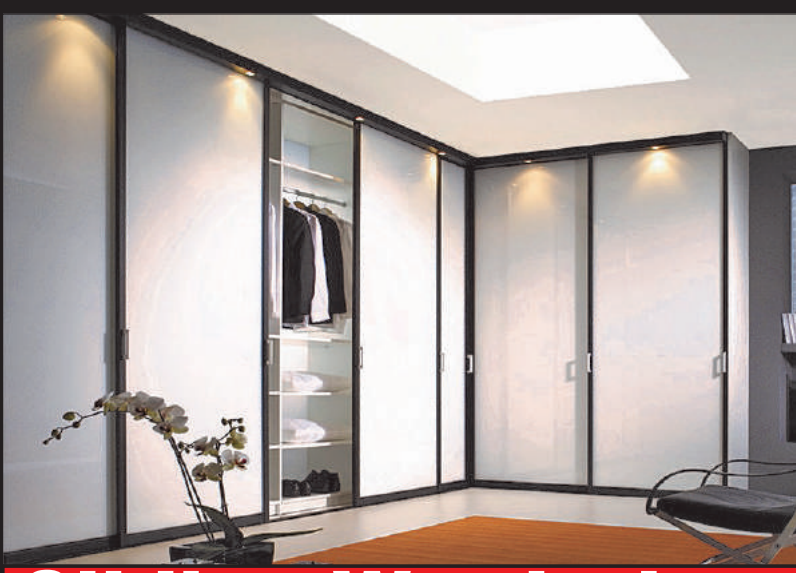

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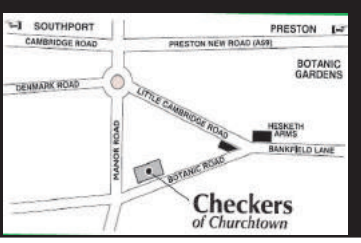

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Lathom High School headteacher Jane Galbraith (centre) joins students celebrating their GCSE exam successes

Secondary school pupils celebrate GCSE success

STUDENTS from Skelmersdale were celebrating after collecting their GCSE exam results.

At Lathom High School in the core subjects of English and maths 64% of students achieved passes at grade 4 or better in English and 61% achieved this grade in maths. A total of 100% of students achieved A*C in religious education and computing.

Contributing further to this year's success were A*C results of 94% in further additional science, 82% in physical education, 75% in resistant materials and 71% in ICT.

In addition, students performed well in a number of subjects in terms of A*A attainment with 33% of students achieving the top grades in religious education, 24% in further additional science and 21% in history.

Lathom students followed the school's trend of "excellent attainment at the top end of the ability range" with several students flying high.

Adam Preston achieved three grade 9s in the new English and maths GCSEs and A* in all other subjects studied.

This achievement was mirrored by Katie Plant who also achieved three grade 9s in English and maths and A*A in all other subjects studied.

Report by **Henry James**

In the new GCSE examinations, Summer Jameson achieved grade 9 in English language, Eleanor Kenyon grade 9 in English literature and Caitlin Webster in Year 10 achieved grade 9 in English literature.

Headteacher at Lathom High, Mrs Galbraith, explained that there was high academic expectation of these new GCSE qualifications and was delighted to report that students had "certainly risen to the challenge."

Paul Cotterill, chair of governors at the school, said: "I would like to congratulate all the students and staff on their successes and wish our students well in their further studies. Only 2,000 extremely able candidates got a nine in all three new exams and two of those are at our school – I'd say that is brilliant!"

At Our Lady Queen of Peace High School a significant number of Year 11 students achieved more than 10 higher grade passes with some exceptional performances at A/A* equivalent grades.

Alison Knight, headteacher at the school, was delighted with the school's results. She congratulated both students and staff on their hard work and excellent achievements and wished the students of 2017 every success as they continue their educational journey post-16.

Kath Gresty, chair of governors, endorsed the headteacher's comments and expressed her thanks on behalf of the governing body as "once again all members of Our Lady's community worked together to achieve the best possible outcomes for all our students."

Taylor Jones achieved the equivalent of 12 higher grade passes with 11 being at A*/A grades. Head girl Lydia Moore and head boy Joey Anderson added to the school's impressive results with 12 or above higher grade passes and 6 A*/A grades.

Other notable results were achieved by Ellen Adkins, Cerys Beamer, Aaron Blain, Michael Lawton, Alisha Fry, Bryony Rushton, Erin Sanderson, Abigail Schofield, Anne-Marie Spencer and Chloe Yates who all achieved at least 12 equivalent higher grade passes and six or more A*/A grades.

The school also reported successes in their STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), including: 100% in engineering, 81% in technology, 82% in biology and they have maintained high outcomes in the new maths and English exams, despite curriculum change.

Up Holland teenager wins coveted place at Oxford

A TEENAGER from Up Holland has become one of the first students at St John Rigby College in a decade to earn a place at Oxford University.

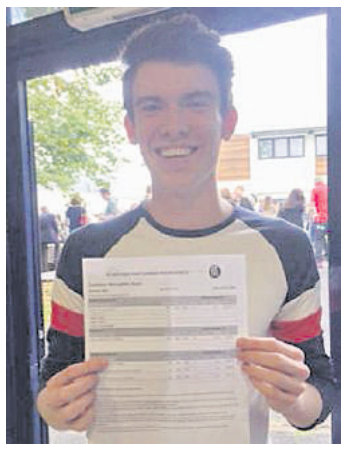
Stuart McLoughlin, who has a 'flair for languages', will start at Keble College, Oxford in October.

The 19-year-old received three As (including an A*) at A-Level and his dad, Mark, and mum Eileen are "absolutely over the moon."

Mark said: "Stuart's headteacher said just to get an interview at Oxford was hard enough but to get the place is excellent.

"He is one of the first students from St John Rigby College to go to Oxford in quite a few years. Stuart will be doing a four-year course in languages including Italian and Spanish."

Stuart had to send some work of his work to Oxford and was then invited to sample what life is like at the university. He went for a week-long visit where he had to attend an interview in March this year. They offered him a place on the condition that he got three As at A-Level.



Oxford-bound Stuart McLoughlin

Mark added: "He has a flair for languages and has had his heart set on going to Oxford. And when he got the offer it gave him something to aim for.

"No-one in our family has achieved what he has done.

"As part of his course he will also spend six months in Spain and six months in Italy."

New support group for mums and carers launched in Skelmersdale

THE Parent and Carer Support Network (PCSN) is launching a new support group for mums, step-mums, carers and grandparents, working in partnership with Oak House in Skelmersdale.

The Mum and Carer Support group (MACS) aims to allow women to feel safe and comfortable in a homely environment where they are able to share knowledge and skills, and to break down barriers where there is isolation.

'Passionate'

Volunteer co-ordinator, Kathy Archer, said: "As a mum myself I know the daily challenges that parents face, so I'm really passionate about MACS.

"It will be a place where women are offered a warm welcome, where they are free to ask for help and support regarding their children and parenting, advice for family problems or ideas for days out and everything else in between."

MACS is a free to access group and meetings will be held on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8pm at Oak House in Elmridge, Tanhouse starting in September.

Kathy added: "Many thanks go to Duncan Petty at Oak House for supporting the Parent and Carer Support Network, especially the MACS initiative, and for making this possible."

For more information on other groups and activities in the Parent and Carer Support Network go to www.pcsn.co.uk.

Kathy Archer

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County to launch first digital post-mortem service in North West

A NEW digital post-mortem service, which it is hoped will lead to less invasive autopsies, is to be launched in Lancashire, and will be the first of its kind in the North West.

Lancashire County Council and the Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust have signed a contract with iGene Ltd for the provision of the new service to be based at the Royal Preston Hospital.

Traditional post-mortems are performed by a pathologist who has to open the body and carry out the examination. Now though developments in CT scanning and research have allowed a digital post-mortem to be performed without the need for this traditional invasive procedure.

However, some deaths are simply not suitable for a digital autopsy and there will remain a need for traditional post mortems in these cases.

The digital autopsy service will be based in Preston, due to its central location, providing families in Lancashire with good access, and other neighbouring areas have already shown interest in accessing it.

Senior coroner for Lancashire, Dr James Adeley, said: "This is a significant advance for the people of Lancashire in establishing accurate causes of death without the need for the distress of the traditional post-mortem, for families who are already grieving.

Mark Pugh, medical director at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

"The county council and the teaching hospitals trust have co-operated effectively to deliver a service that is unavailable elsewhere on this scale."

The service, to be provided by Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and iGene, will be free at the point of delivery for bereaved families.

Mark Pugh, medical director at the trust, said: "We are delighted to be the first place in the North West to provide this innovative service, which will help to reduce distress for grieving families who are already going through a difficult time.

"This revolutionary approach to providing post-mortem examinations is far less invasive which means we are able to treat the deceased with more dignity and more quickly than the current arrangements.

"We are pleased to have been able to deliver this service in collaboration with Dr Adeley, Lancashire County Council and iGene in full recognition of the benefits it will provide for the people in Lancashire."

Currently no facility in Lancashire is able to provide a digital autopsy service and families requesting one have to fund the investigation themselves and arrange transport out of the county.

The proposed scheme will utilise the knowledge and experience that has been built up by the radiologists and pathologists at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust during a pilot scheme that has been running over the last few months.

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Fairytale success for Skem shoemaker!

Report by **Henry James**

MANAGEMENT and staff at Hotter Shoes are celebrating a 'fairytale' success!

The UK's biggest shoemakers, based at Peel Road in West Pimbo, enjoyed their 'Cinderella' moment when winning the Glass Slipper trophy for best newcomer at the international FN Platform exhibition.

Hotter beat 156 rival shoe brands to win the prestigious award at the show in Las Vegas, a global showcase for branded footwear.

The Skelmersdale company, an international omni-channel retailer, was launching its new SS18 collection at the show with the aim of attracting large independent US stockists for its comfort brand.

Hotter chief executive, Sara Prowse, said: "Not only are we delighted to have won such an important award at our first visit to an overseas exhibition, we are also overwhelmed with the response to our new range.

"We established our US website and mail order business five years ago and this is our fastest-growing territory. We currently serve our US customers from our dedicated call centre which is situated next to our UK factory and warehouse; shoes are shipped direct to US home addresses."

FN Platform's Leslie Gallin presents the Glass Slipper trophy to Hotter chief executive, Robert Perkins (left) and head of wholesale, Adam Marsden

Founded in 1959 as a slipper manufacturer, Hotter now offers a collection of women's and men's shoes with features including supersoft and breathable leathers, lightweight and flexible soles and underfoot cushioning.

The company won a Queen's Award for Enterprise in 2015.

Hotter's multi-channel sales platforms enable customers to shop online and through mail order catalogues in the UK and US and at more than 80 UK Hotter stores.

Its state-of-the-art factory produces a pair of hand finished shoes every 20 seconds which, according to the British Footwear Association, makes it the UK's largest shoe manufacturer.

Library celebration event goes down a treat with young visitors

A MULTI-feature event held at Skelmersdale library to celebrate International Youth Health day proved a popular success.

Organised by library staff, with support from the Friends of Skelmersdale Library (Fosl), the day saw stations dotted around the library in Southway with self-help books on the theme of healthy living.

And Paula Gamester, Maureen Fazal and Jane from The Sewing Rooms were invited along to present a well-attended workshop on recycling and adapting clothes.

This saw the young visitors come up with creative ideas on how to adapt a sweatshirt, from cutting off the sleeves and making slits in the fabric, to adding appliqué patches, fringes, hoods and capes, as they learned new skills and let their artistic creativity flow.

Suggestions

An area for socialising and playing board games was also provided, while another workshop involved re-stringing guitars and having a jamming session with library service staff and local musician James Jackson.

The Friends of Skelmersdale Library provided fruit, drinks and sweets, while crisps were kindly donated by Walkers.

Chairs of Fosl, Mary Whitby, said: "We would like to thank Walkers for their kind donation and also Carly Hunter of McDonald's in Skelmersdale for donating 10 vouchers which were used in a prize draw.

"The young people were asked to come up with ideas for activities or services they would like to see in the library and there were some great suggestions and some wacky ones, such as water beds!

"The 10 best suggestions have been selected and posted up on the Friends noticeboard in the library. The winners can claim their McDonald's vouchers at the reception desk.

"I would also like to thank Noreen Martin and all the library staff and in particular the young volunteer Jason who was involved in the planning and advertising of the event."

Civic Sunday Service

THE Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancashire, Councillor Neil and Mrs Julie Furey, will host their Civic Sunday Service at St Richard's Church, Liverpool Road, Skelmersdale on Sunday, September 3 from 3pm.

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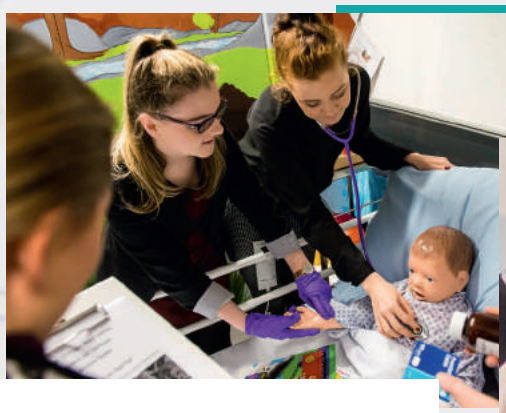
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Jeremy Hunt addressing staff during his visit to Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust

Patient safety is focus of health secretary's visit to hospital trust

THE Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt has visited Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust to talk to staff about improvements in patient safety across the NHS.

Karen Jackson, interim chief executive at the trust, welcomed the health secretary and Jane Cummings, chief nursing officer at NHS England, to Southport Hospital.

Sheila Lloyd, chief nurse at the trust, then gave a presentation to the minister and staff from across the organisation on the work the trust is undertaking to improve patient safety.

Mr Hunt also gave a presentation on the wider work being done throughout the NHS to improve patient safety, before trust staff were given the chance to ask questions.

The health secretary said: "It was a privilege to meet staff at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, who do such a wonderful job delivering care to patients.

The minister pictured with trust interim chief executive Karen Jackson

"I was hugely impressed by the way the trust is embedding patient safety at the heart of its culture and these important steps will help us all make the NHS the safest healthcare system in the world."

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Dominic's four-midable effort for volunteer support group!

Report by **Henry James**

A WEST Lancashire man has donated £1,518 to a voluntary support group who helped his wife after she had a nervous breakdown.

Earlier this year we reported on how 38-year-old Dominic Byrne from Ormskirk completed four marathons in four weeks to raise funds for Skelmersdale-based Empower.

Dominic's wife Sheila had gone to the group after her breakdown last year. Empower, which was set up by Nikki Whittaker, aims to help people recover from mental illness with support provided by volunteers..

Dominic had originally aimed to raise £1,200 - the amount which the group has to pay for two months rent - but thanks to his efforts and the backing of friends and family he has managed to surpass that total by more than £300.

His stamina-sapping challenge began on Sunday, May 7 when he took part in the Stratford-Upon-Avon Marathon, also called the Shakespeare Marathon.

This was quickly followed by the Windermere Marathon (May 21); the Liverpool Rock N'Roll Marathon (May 28) and the Coniston Trail (June 4).

Dominic said: "With the help of Empower my wife is slowly but surely finding the confidence to do things on her own again.

"They have provided access to an assertiveness course for her and she can attend group sessions and receive a massage or reiki to help her try and relax.

"Empower is a not-for-profit organisation funded by people who use the service, so I wanted to raise some money for them.

"Also, mental health issues are still misunderstood and I wanted to make more people aware of the problem."

Dominic Byrne presents £1,518, the proceeds from running four marathons to Empower founder Nicky Whittaker and friends.

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Prince's Trust seeking to recruit new team members and companies able to provide work experience

Report by **Kenny Parker**

DO you know a young person with talent and potential but who lacks the confidence or qualifications to put their gifts into practice? Are you aged 16-25 and looking for a challenge? Or are you a company that can provide work experience for young people looking for that challenge?

If you can answer yes any of those questions then the Prince's Trust would like to hear from you.

In partnership with West Lancashire College the trust is looking for new participants and potential work placements for a new course starting in September for the Ormskirk and Skelmersdale areas.

The trust's 12-week programme is designed to give young people aged 16 to 25 the confidence and skills they need to get back into work, education or training.

The course, which includes a residential component, gives participants valuable work experience leading to work references and also qualifications in teamwork, employability and community skills.

The Prince's Trust course promises to help those that join to gain nationally-recognised qualifications, the Prince's Trust Certificate in Employment, Teamwork and Community Skills.

Recruits also spend a week away from home on a team-building residential, uncover hidden talents, improve motivation and self-confidence, assume some responsibility, develop team working and communication skills and also raise their awareness of their local community and how they can contribute to it.

Among other achievements in the past, teams have joined forces with West Lancs Council's Parks and Countryside Rangers Service to create an educational zone at Coronation Park, Ormskirk; helped to restore a church and youth group in Carfield, Skelmersdale, which had been vandalised; taken part in an adventure residential trip at Rock and River in Mawdesley; and helped Burscough Cricket Club renovate their grounds.

Volunteers from Ormskirk Prince's Trust created an educational zone at the town's Coronation Park

Those that complete the course will have access to full-time education and potentially employment

The Prince's Trust are also looking for companies that can provide a work placement or opportunities for voluntary work.

Those interested in joining the course, which starts on September 25, or organisations wishing to offer placements can contact Ben Duffy on 07500606740 or Jonathon Marlow on 07870168529. Alternatively you can email them at ben.duffy@westlancs.ac.uk or jonathon.marlow@westlancs.ac.uk.

E Rooms stages jam fest in aid of music charity

MORE than 20 local acts played at the first Strummer Jam Festival held at the E Rooms in Westgate over two days this month to raise money for the Joe Strummer Foundation.

The acts played on two stages and the money raised went towards the foundation which helps musicians.

There was free entry to the event with one stage indoors and one stage outdoors. The music started at 1pm on the Saturday and 7pm on the Friday.

Headline act on the Friday was Wigan Punk band, Riggotts,while Redeyed Jedi, a six-piece ska band topped the bill on the Saturday.

The Joe Strummer Foundation aims to provide opportunities to musicians and support to projects around the world that create empowerment through music.

Alex and Paul McCoy on stage at Skelmersdale's E Rooms during the first Strummer Jam Festival

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Bumper crowds expected for Parbold festival

FOLLOWING the success of last year's Parbold Street Festival of Arts and Music, which attracted more than 5,000 visitors, organisers are predicting an even bigger and better event for this year's third staging to be held on Saturday and Sunday, September 2 and 3.

Report by **Kenny Parker**

The festival gets underway at noon on Saturday and is set to feature more than 30 attractions at 14 venues.

Four of the venues will host live music, including The Big Stage behind the Railway pub where local bands and singers will be among the performers, including Claudette Girvin, Burly Chassis, Jamie Wooding and more.

There will be a beer and gin festival at the Wayfarer, plus a German beer and sausage event at the Stocks Tavern, plus more than 40 stalls selling a variety of goods.

The Canal and River Trust will be bringing along George, a Victorian barge which has been turned into an interactive museum.

Other canal craft from far and wide are expected dressed in bunting and lights to brighten up the canal, and the Rose of Parbold will be turned into a floating art gallery.

Also, especially for the occasion, the Mill Leat area has been turned into 'The Village', hosting a second stage along with food, drink, stalls and other attractions.

Meanwhile the Parbold Equestrian Centre, working with Riding for the Disabled, will be providing demonstrations, 'taster' classes and fun and games at their site opposite the Stocks Tavern.

And a DJ will be playing summer sounds at café, Coffee Etc on Station Road.

Adding a spiritual dimension to the festivities on Sunday will be an inter-denominational church service held on The Big Stage at 11am on Sunday. All are welcome.

This will be followed by the Grand Duck Race starting at 1pm on the canal, where Lancashire Fire and Rescue will provide appliance plus hoses to ensure the plastic ducks complete the course in double-quick time!

A special feature for the weekend will be the enactment of 'The Legend of Parbold Hill'. Conceived by the local schoolchildren and developed by local artiststhis will tell the story of Sunny, our very own dragon who lives under Parbold Hill.

Workshops have also been held through summer and local children, along with their parents, have been building models, flags, boats, birds, dragonflies and much more, ensuring spectacular parades from 2pm on both Saturday and Sunday.

Also in operation will be a designated Kids Zone with fairground rides, stalls, paint ball, crazy golf, sand art and lots more.

Programmes for the festival are available from Parbold DIY Centre and Coffee Etc. These are priced at £2 and are individually numbered for a chance to win an iPad in a grand draw.

The main road through the village will be closed from noon until 6pm on both days, except for access, but car parking is available for £2 per day at Parbold Equestrian Centre, between the canal bridge and the Stocks Tavern.

Visitors can also travel to the festival via the regular Southport-Manchester rail service calling at Wigan, Appley Bridge and Burscough Bridge.

Thousands came to Parbold to enjoy the festival last year and organisers have lined up another bumper weekend for this year.

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You can't even choose which doctor you want to see any more

REGARDING the letter from Jane Nolan (Champion Letters - August 16).

I agree with her 100% regarding the state of our health centres.

It's not just Hillside but others, such as Birleywood, too.

Every time you ring up and finally get through you are met with unhelpful receptionists telling you there are no appointments left and you cannot pre-book.

Even online there are never any appointments available, and if you are lucky enough to get one you're only given 12 minutes which in my opinion is totally unacceptable.

Gone are the days of family GPs. You can't even choose which GP you want to see anymore and have to wait weeks before an appointment is made even with phone consultations!

If this is the way it is to be in the future then the NHS stamp should be abolished, after all why should we be paying for a service that we can no longer access when we need to?

When is the government going to wake-up and stop spending tax payers'money abroad, take care of its own country and stop playing God with people's lives?

M. Earl,
Skelmersdale

We should be proud of people who serve in our armed forces

I REFER to the letter from P Fallon, of Skelmersdale who wrote regarding recruiting youngsters for the armed forces.

The first point I'd like to take up is his reference to the book 'All Quiet on the Western Front' suggesting that anybody thinking of joining the army should read this to get an accurate slant on real life in the armed forces.

This book is about life in the trenches of the German army in the First World War. It tells of how difficult an existence military life was 100 years ago. The armed forces, be they army, navy or airforce, have most definitely moved on in all ways.

Life in the armed forces is a very technical and disciplined way of life now, the trades required within all branches of our forces are wide spread and cover a multitude of jobs and the training that is given is the best in the country and possibly the world.

It's not all about being an infantryman. There are engineers, mechanics, signallers, medics to name but a few, while the airforce has aircraft fitters electronics experts etc.

Anyone in the navy has generally two skills, because they do not have time to just sail round the world waiting for some action, they have regular jobs on board, like marine engineers, electronic engineers, bakers, caterers, etc, etc.

The skills learned in the forces are highly regarded by civilian employers because of the excellent training achieved while serving our country.

These skills are not expected of a recruit, they are taught these skills in addition to how to protect you and me, and they do a great job.

I never served in the armed forces but as a youth leader, and as an Army Cadet officer, I had many young boys who passed through my unit in Skelmersdale and some went into the army, in the same way that members of the neighbouring Air Training Cadets and Sea Cadets probably also joined their preferred armed force.

Those who serve to protect our country do a great job and we should be proud of them and be grateful of their efforts.

Gavin Fulton
Skelmersdale

PICTURE of the week

Not quite the Morrocan Sahara but a run along Southport's coast has become part of Niall Brannigan's training regime. Niall from Banks is to take part in the Marathon Des Sables, a gruelling 156 mile desert run which he hopes with sponsorship will raise £5,000 for Guide Dogs for the Blind. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Don't moan about litter - pick it up!

FIRSTLY, I would like to applaud the Champion reader who takes time to pick up litter in Aughton.

When walking about I pick it up when I can, rather than just grumble about careless humans who have no sense of responsibility or pride in their community.

Secondly, I would like to put my spoke in regarding the cost of having a mayor for Ormskirk. Although I am pleased that anyone, regardless of background, can be our elected mayor I agree with Graham Walker that it is an unacceptable expense.

I would rather see the grassed areas cut properly and untidy areas cleared up and not have to pay for green bins, than to have the expense of a mayor with civic car and chauffeur. Charities won't in the end suffer as the community will always get together to support worthwhile causes.

I remember in the 70s when Ormskirk Council decided to spend extra money on a new mayoral chain rather than donate that money towards a needy cause. I disagreed with it then and I disagree with the cost of such a position now.

Judy Ingman, Aughton

Whatever happened to freedom of choice?

COULD someone at Ormskirk and Southport hospitals explain the reasoning behind the non-supply of the Sun newspaper in the hospital shop?

I appreciate that the Hillsborough tragedy was devastating for relatives and friends concerned and understand that those closest to the tragedy, by their choice, would want to boycott the newspaper. However, surely other readers have the 'freedom of choice' to purchase it?

Name, address supplied

Drop us a line

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

■ **PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.**

Rail improvements are being sidelined

WITH regard to rail fares and services, like many others I am very disturbed that this government can simply sideline promised improvements, and then follow this with a massive hike in tickets.

I am impressed with the performance of Merseyrail as of now, even though there are days when that level drops.

However, further afield the view is not so good. Services outside the Mersey region are shaky and uncertain.

The main problem appears to be a lack of political will to bring the rail industry to the fore.

This is illustrated in the failure to reinstate rail routes that have long been closed. For example, the Burscough loop both to Preston and Ormskirk travelling from Southport.

Reliance on road transport now is ceasing to be an option because our roads are saturated.

How long do we have to be without rail services on certain routes? And how long do we have to be held hostage to the rail monopoly where the routes are intact?

There is a concerted lack of will to address this.

Michael Lampard
(by email)

County council should be scrutinised by an independent body

WITH reference to the recent article about County Councillor Paul Greenall changing from Tory to stand as an independent councillor.

Last year, 2016, 87 county councillors cost the ratepayers £1.2million in expenses for food and travel to County Hall, on top of their £10,000-plus a year allowances. Such blatant misuse of privilege cannot be allowed.

Paul Greenall says the working public cannot claim such expenses so why should councillors serving the public's interest be allowed to.

It is not widely known, and in fact kept secret, that councillors have a restaurant at County Hall serving subsidised food.

They call it their mess and it has recently been refurbished at a cost of £85,000.

Paul Greenall is to be applauded for his protest.

The county council should be castigated and overseen by an independent body, preferably from the private sector.

Graham P. Walker,
Up Holland

OWL slam county council refusal of free roundabout maintenance offer

Report by **Kenny Parker**

MEMBERS of the Our West Lancashire group have described a decision by Lancashire County Council to refuse the offer of free professional maintenance for one of the traffic roundabouts leading into Ormskirk town centre as "crazy".

Professional landscape gardener Chris Bentley had offered to do the work on the roundabout by the fire station using his own machinery but received no reply from the county council and took the matter up with the independents group.

Jane Thompson from Our West Lancashire said: "We pursued the matter with the county council only for them to claim health and safety as a reason for refusing Chris's generous offer.

"Even when we pointed out that Chris held the full range of necessary insurances as he carries out this work professionally they persisted with their stance.

"This is a major gateway roundabout to the town. If the county council are going to refuse generous offers from the community, then they need to maintain it properly themselves. Sadly, West Lancashire is neglected by the powers-that-be in Preston."

OWL brough councillor Adrian Owens, who represents the town's Derby ward, added: "This is crazy. The county council should be encouraging the support of active people in the community, not turning it away.

" Some of our roundabouts in West Lancashire are sponsored by local businesses and yet the funds those businesses provide are certainly not being used on roundabout maintenance. The county council should be ashamed of themselves."

OWL's Jane Thompson and Councillor Owens at the fire station roundabout

A spokesman for Lancashire County Council responded: "We have received some complaints about the appearance of this roundabout this year, many of which followed a lack of maintenance earlier in the summer due to an oversight having arisen during the process of the county council taking over the cutting of highway vegetation from the borough council.

"The grass has now been cut, however we have also taken on board the concerns which have been raised and are looking to establish a low-maintenance scheme of planting to improve its appearance in keeping with this location being a gateway to Ormskirk.

"At the same time we are grateful for the offer to maintain the roundabout on our behalf."

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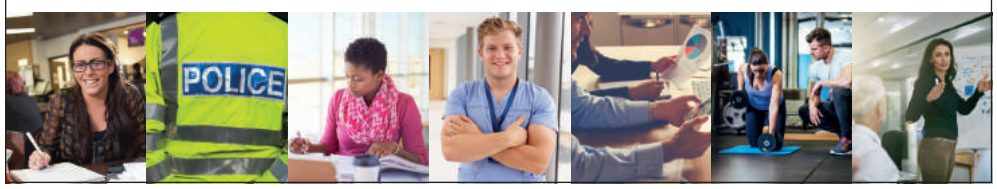

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30,000 flock to annual motoring extravaganza

WEST Lancs Council say that more than 30,000 people took 'pole position' to enjoy this year's Ormskirk MotorFest as the annual extravaganza once again attracted massive crowds.

During the event around 270 to 300 cars and motorcycles covering over a century of motoring and automotive heritage and history were on display in the town centre and Coronation Park.

Star cars of the show included the Vanwall VW5/11, the first British-made car to win the British Grand Prix driven by a British drivers when it was piloted driven to victory by Tony Brooks and Stirling Moss in the 1957 British/European Grand Prix at the Aintree Circuit.

The Formula 1 theme continued with a classic BRM car, which was raced by Graham Hill at Aintree in its last Formula 1 race in 1964, also attracting a lot of attention, as did the Jaguar Project 7 car.

There was also a 1951 Jaguar XK120 which had been driven with distinction by leading female racing drivers of the 1950s Betty Haig and Lorna Doone-Snow, and a superb range of other cars and motorcycles including Ferraris, Porsches and even bubble cars.

Many of the cars took part in parade laps which former Top Gear presenter Steve Berry and legendary motor racing commentator Neville Hay commentated on to keep the crowds informed about the wonderful cars going around the town centre.

Steve and Neville also used their expertise as judges in the Concours d'Elegance competition, which saw some of the best presented cars competing for prizes in individual classes. The overall winner was George Cross with his 1972 Vanden Plas Princess Mk Two.

Ormskirk MotorFest is a free event organised by Aintree Circuit Club and supported by West Lancashire Borough Council.

Councillor John Hodson, portfolio holder for Planning, said: "The MotorFest provides fantastic value for money for council taxpayers as the authority works well with the organisers Aintree Circuit Club to set up this marvellous occasion which thousands of people enjoy."

The crowds also enjoyed the Speciality Vintage and Makers Market which featured a great selection of stalls selling art and crafts, retro, vintage and up-cycled wares and there was also music, games and children's activities including face painting. A Charlie Chaplin walkabout entertained with his cheeky antics and the Vintage DJs had people's feet tapping to charming sounds of a bygone era. Music was also provided by Merchant Taylor School's Saxophone Group.

Grateful

Mike Ashcroft, Aintree Circuit Club chairman, said: "I am delighted we were able to bring such a marvellous event to the streets of Ormskirk once again and that another huge crowd enjoyed the event. There were some wonderful vehicles on display and the Speciality Vintage and Makers Market was a great added attraction for people to enjoy.

"We are very grateful to West Lancashire Borough Council and the police for their support and to all our sponsors and volunteer marshals. We would also like thank the medical staff and volunteers who gave us great support on the day.

"We are also very grateful to all the drivers and riders who came from far and wide to display their cars and motorcycles."

The Mayor's Choice Award winner for best car was Stuart Kelly's 1977 Opel Manta SR Coupe and the Mayor's Choice Award winner for best motorcycle was a Yamaha.

"I am delighted we were able to bring such a marvellous event to the streets of Ormskirk once again and that another huge crowd enjoyed the event."

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Residents and carers from Springfield Court Nursing Home admiring the many cars on display at the MotorFest

A 1915 Ford leads the vehicle parade around Ormskirk's ring road

TV and motoring journalist, Steve Berry presents George Cross with the MotorFest's prestigious Concours d'Elegance trophy

The Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancs, Councillor Neil Furey and his wife Julie tour the cars on display at MotorFest

Ella takes in the sights as a Martland's of Burscough vehicle joins the Ormskirk MotorFest parade of vehicles last Sunday

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Education Travelpass reminder to parents

PARENTS of schoolchildren in Lancashire are being reminded to start thinking about school travel arrangements for the next academic year.

The transport entitlement for all pupils who are starting secondary school is assessed by the county council, and any parent who has received a letter and an application form about transport for pupils beginning Year 7 in September should return their completed application as soon as possible.

As soon as the completed form is received, the county council will try to issue a new pass in time for the start of the new school term.

Any parent who thinks their child may now be entitled to receive help with travel costs since submitting their secondary school application due to a change in circumstances should contact the School Transport Line on 0300 123 6738.

Any sixth form pupil who has previously travelled on a school bus contracted by the county council may be able to continue to do this, as long as there are seats available, by purchasing a travel season ticket.

Primary school pupils in years 1 to 6 and secondary school students in years 8 to 11, who received help with transport last year and whose circumstances have not changed, will receive their passes in August.

Parents whose children use taxis provided by the county council will be informed of any new transport arrangements by letter.

Transport costs on school buses funded by the county council are as follows:

- Journeys up to 3 miles - single fare £1.40, return fare £2.70, annual season ticket £410.
- Journeys between 3 and 8 miles - single fare £2, return fare £3.70, annual season ticket £562.
- Journeys over 8 miles - single fare £2.50, return fare £4.70, annual season ticket £714.

Parents are reminded to make sure that their children have sufficient money to cover the cost of the return journey from home to school.

More information is available at www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools or by calling 0300 123 6738.

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Ambulance service on the lookout for 'next door heroes'

Social media campaign launched to recruit more community first responders

THE North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) is on the lookout for 'heroes' all across the North West to join a life-saving team of community first responders (CFRs) and become the 'Hero Next Door.'

CFRs are ordinary people who do extraordinary things as volunteers for the ambulance service. They find the time to save the lives of their neighbours whilst going about their normal routines.

David McNally, community resuscitation manager for NWAS, said: "We rely on our community first responders to not help us save lives but also to just be there for our patients and be a reassuring face. Sometimes it's the smallest things that make the biggest difference.

"The idea of the Hero Next Door campaign is to let people know that volunteers can go about their everyday lives and have no other connection to healthcare but still find time to be a hero!"

The new social media campaign using the hashtag #HeroNextDoor was launched this week.

Community first responder, Phillipa Belsham teaches CPR to members of the public

Important

When a person goes into cardiac arrest, their chance of survival drops by 10% for every minute that they are left without CPR and defibrillation, showing just how important it is for people in the local community to know how to help.

Mark Jarnell, community first responder for NWAS, said: "Working as a CFR allows me to give back to my community and be there for people in their hour of need. I simply sign on when I'm available, whether that be in between appointments at work or when I'm at home watching the telly.

"The best part for me is after a busy call-out, the relative or patient simply saying thank-you."

Community first responders can be called upon to attend incidents such as cardiac arrest as well as other emergency situations, and possibly being closer to the patient than an ambulance they are able to start life-saving treatment as quickly as possible.

Only required to commit a few hours per week, a CFR could be anyone over the age of 18 and doesn't require any previous training. To find out more go to www.nwas.nhs.uk/volunteer.

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County's schools boss hails GCSE results

COUNTY council schools chiefs have praised pupils for their GCSE results.

Despite the significant changes that have been made to the examinations system and, in particular, to the way in which English and maths have been tested this year, provisional results from schools in Lancashire show that around 64% of students have achieved Grade 4 or above in both. Grade 4 is roughly equivalent to a C grade in previous years.

County Councillor Susie Charles, cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "I hope that our students are justifiably proud of themselves. These results are the reward for a great deal of hard work by students and their teachers to meet the demands of the more challenging requirements of this year's GCSE exams.

"The exams are different this year, to the extent that the regulator has said that it is not even possible to compare this year's to previous results.

"Although it also isn't possible to make a proper comparison with national statistics at this stage until they are released in October, I'm proud to say that the number of our students achieving good grades can only be seen as being very positive.

"The results show that standards remain genuinely high in our schools despite the widespread changes in marking and the curriculum.

"Since I became cabinet member I've been constantly impressed by what I see in our schools. I'm so proud of our families, teachers and school staff who have worked very hard to support our pupils.

"I'd also like to congratulate and to thank our students themselves for all their hard work. These results are a credit to them and are a great achievement."

County Councillor Susie Charles

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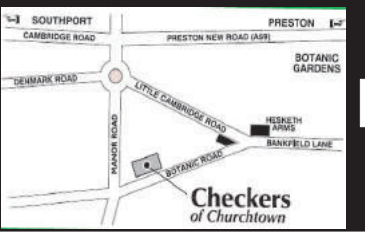

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Sun 10am-4pm

Chance to recognise 'special' specials, cadets and police volunteers

NOMINATIONS are open for the 24th annual Lord Ferrers Awards to recognise the outstanding contribution of special constables, police support volunteers and volunteer police cadets.

This year a new category has been introduced for technical innovation, to encourage recognition of 'cyber specials' and those volunteers using technology creatively to combat the changing nature of crime.

Lancashire Constabulary has more than 2,000 volunteers working across its headquarters and divisions. Last year almost 300 nominations were submitted by forces across England and Wales for the awards and for the first time, members of the public could also recommend volunteers.

Policing minister, Nick Hurd, said: "Policing has a long and proud history of volunteers and the awards are an opportunity to recognise and celebrate their achievements.

"Every day special constables, police support volunteers and volunteer police cadets make a selfless contribution to tackling crime and supporting police forces. I urge police officers and members of the public to nominate police volunteers who have made an outstanding contribution to their communities for an award."

Members of the public have until September 17 to make nominations.

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Give me a world of 'dreams' over one of grey uniformity every time...

I WAS watching one of those consumer programmes on telly recently in which a panel of foody experts 'blind tested' various foods from sources ranging from the cheapest to the most expensive. And guess what? In many cases it turned out that a supermarket bargain wine, cheese or potato crisp came out ahead of its snobby rivals.

No real surprise then, but I thought I'd try a similar experiment of my own. I bought a family steak pie from one of the more fashionable supermarkets and quite nice it was too and fairly good value. But then while prowling around one of the cheaper supermarkets, I spotted a family steak pie, considerably cheaper than the one I had just eaten and, it was claimed, baked for that outlet only.

So I thought, let's give it a go and did. For a start, both pies claimed to be deep-filled (hopefully mainly with steak) and though the cheaper version was indeed deeper it was also a little smaller in circumference.

There wasn't that much difference in taste to be fair and the fact that I would buy the less expensive one over the dearer was as much down to something which would probably put most gourmets off and just goes to show that sometimes it's all horses for courses (not that I'm suggesting for one moment that either contained anything but cow.) No, it was just that the cheaper variant had a few little chewy bits of gristle included and somehow that appeals to me, though I'd guess not to most others.

But then, other products do tend to conform to the 'you get what you pay for' philosophy. Fruit juices, for instance, though the expensive ones are really expensive compared to the cheapest which tend to be sweet and nasty; and jam, where again the cheapest are very sweet and very little else, and the truly top end are very good but not in my price range. Here, the mid-range products seem to be the best buy I think.

Of course, if you move up the expense scale, things become even more complicated. I mean, no-one would deny that a Bentley Continental is a better car than, say, a Ford Focus - but hundreds of thousands of pounds worth better? And it's the same with clothes, shoes and watches and ... well, a whole lot of things.

I've noticed that recently many of the railway companies have been reducing or totally eliminating first class accommodation on their trains so as to make more room for us plebs - sorry, hard-working people. And again, I'm probably in a minority of standard class travellers who regret this. First class rail travel is something I wish I could afford, though in this case I suppose I could if a) I saved up especially for it; and b) it hadn't been removed just because people like me aren't supposed to like the idea of it.

That has always jarred with me. Should all cars cost, say £10,000 or less? Should we all buy the cheapest shoes in the shop? Perhaps everyone should wear some kind of national uniform so no-one would feel put down because others were wearing something better.

Personally, I'd like to be able to dream of one day being able to travel first class, of owning a Roller in which to put my expensive shoes up. And I prefer a world in which I can at least see these objects of desire rather than a grey uniformity.

It amazes me that from time to time I am pilloried because I own my own boat. I would have thought congratulations would be in order. I own a boat worth, I should think, about as much as many people's cars. I therefore have no car but I do own just one of my dreams.

So until my boat comes in and I can afford Aberdeen Angus for my steak pie, I'll be content with the cut-price, good value, slightly gristly offering.

Pregnant smokers urged to give it up for baby's sake

Report by **Henry James**

Lancashire Care Trust Quit Squad are warning of the dangers of smoking while pregnant

DON'T put your unborn baby at risk by smoking!

That's the message to mums-to-be in the county from Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust's Quit Squad.

Smoking when pregnant is harmful to babies and restricts essential oxygen supplies to them, forcing their hearts to beat harder every time a pregnant mum smokes.

As a result, the Quit Squad is calling on pregnant women who smoke to protect their babies' health by taking advantage of the expert help offered by the team and give their babies a healthier start in life.

Gareth Beck from the Quit Squad said: "Every cigarette you smoke increases the risk to your pregnancy. Your baby's tiny body is completely dependent on yours, so if you smoke throughout your pregnancy, your baby will go through nicotine withdrawal once it is born.

"No matter what the stage of your pregnancy is, stopping smoking will benefit both you and your baby immediately. If you stop smoking, you are more likely to have fewer complications in pregnancy, a healthier pregnancy and a healthier baby.

"If you or your family smoke while you are pregnant or around your baby, you also increase the risk of sudden infant death syndrome and also the likelihood of your baby being admitted to hospital for bronchitis and pneumonia during the first year of life.

"The Quit Squad can support you to give up - you are four times more likely to give up with expert help than going alone.

"Mums-to-be can also download Lancashire County Council's 'Quit for Us' app which has been designed to help women quit smoking during pregnancy and includes games, tips and a myth-buster to help to achieve a smokefree pregnancy"

The Quit Squad is funded by Lancashire County Council. People can access the service in their local community by visiting a drop-in clinic (no appointments required) or by attending a one-to-one session. The Quit Squad also offers sessions in the community and workplace.

For further details, telephone 0800 3286297, visit www.quitsquad.nhs.uk, or follow the Quit Squad on Twitter @LancashireCare #QuitSquad. More information about quitting smoking when pregnant can also be found on website www.quitfortwo.co.uk.

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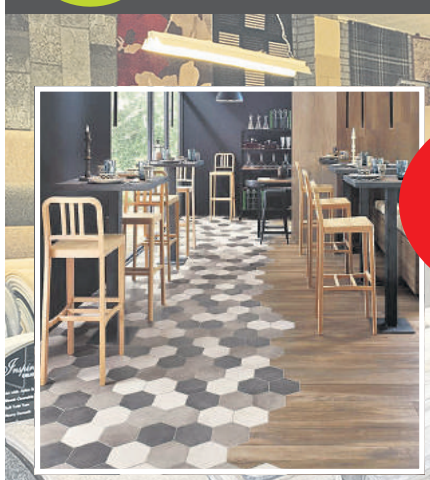
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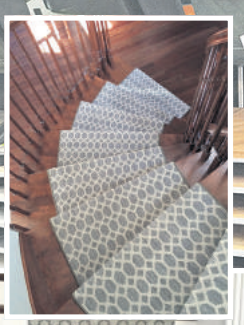

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Emotional support available for ex-service personnel

EX-SERVICE personnel living in Lancashire are being reminded they can access emotional and mental health support from Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust's Military Veterans' Service.

Around 3.2% of UK armed forces personnel are assessed with a mental health disorder. Possible explanations for the rise in recent years may be the successful effect of campaigns to reduce stigma resulting in an increase in mental health awareness.

However, for some veterans this is not always the case, meaning they do not come into contact with mental health services for a number of years following service.

The transition from veteran to civilian life can be difficult and often those who have served in the armed forces can struggle in asking for the support they need.

With this in mind, the Lancashire Military Veterans' Service wants to remind people of the support available for anyone experiencing mental health problems or difficulties in returning to normal life. The service provides mental health support for conditions including depression, alcohol and substance misuse, anger problems and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Joe Crocock, military veterans service manager at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We recognise that adjusting to the change in lifestyle when leaving the forces can be very difficult and that it is important the people are able to access the support they need, at the right time and every time.

"Mental health is a topic that is always so high on the agenda and we are working to maximise awareness around it to encourage as many people as possible to get in touch.

Support is available for military veterans needing help with emotional and mental health issues

"We provide support for a variety of mental health conditions be it Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression or anxiety and we also provide support for those dealing with alcohol or substance misuse.

"The service is made up of a team of specialists who understand the culture of the armed forces and can provide help for anyone who is experiencing emotional difficulties and also wanting to develop their skills and look for new employment."

The Military Veterans' Service is a partnership between Lancashire Care and Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust. The service provides a valuable insight and understanding of life both in and out of the forces as many staff have served themselves or have family members in the forces.

For more information about the Military Veterans' Service and to make a self-referral, visit www.lancashirecare.nhs.uk/military-veterans-mental-health-services or call 0300 323 0707.

Edge Hill Press launches new anthology at international book festival

THE latest publication from Edge Hill University Press has been launched at the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

Edited by Edge Hill academics Professor Robert Sheppard and Dr James Byrne, *Atlantic Drift* features poets from the UK, Ireland, USA and Canada in partnership with Arc Publications.

Edge Hill Professor of Poetry and Poetics, Robert Sheppard,

The anthology seeks to highlight new and existing writing and to define/redefine the discussions between poets from both sides of 'the pond'.

The Edge Hill website states that by developing a dialogue between English-speaking traditions, *Atlantic Drift* includes some of the most exceptional poetry written in the 21st century featuring Claudia Rankine, Jerome Rothenberg, Rosmarie Waldrop, Charles Bernstein, Bhanu Kapil and Allen Fisher.

It also combines poetry with poetics, including short pieces in which the contributors reflect on their writing, writings in general and the contexts of their poetic practice.

The Edinburgh launch event featured readings from the anthology by writers Andrea Brady, Sophie Collins and Sean Bonney.

Profile

Edge Hill Professor of Poetry and Poetics, Robert Sheppard, said: "We are very excited by the anthology, which features not only poems but poetics of our contributors as well."

EHU Press works with different publishers each year and will publish another two books in the next two years.

The initiative builds on the university's well-established literary profile which includes the nationally-recognised Edge Hill Prize for the Short Story, the only UK award for excellence in a published collection of short stories.

The EHU Press also offers internships to six Edge Hill students per year which see the students assigned a variety of roles, giving them real publishing industry experience.

Last year 2016 saw the EHU Press launch its first publication, Head Land, at the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

A joint enterprise with Glasgow-based independent publisher Freight Books, Head Land is an anthology of previously shortlisted authors that have featured throughout the past 10 years of the university's Short Story Prize, including China Miéville, Neil Gaiman, Ali Smith and many more.

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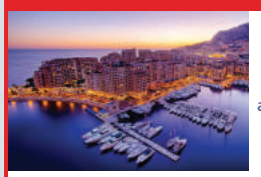

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Care trust seeking to recruit volunteers for mental health helpline

Compassionate individuals needed for busy listening service

OFFICIALS at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust's Wellbeing and Mental Health Helpline are seeking caring and compassionate individuals with an interest in mental health to volunteer within their busy listening service.

The Wellbeing and Mental Health Helpline is looking to recruit volunteers who can spare four hours per fortnight to offer a listening ear to those who need it the most.

The helpline provides a listening and emotional support service for those concerned about their own mental health or that of someone they know. It is open Monday to Friday from 7 to 11pm and on Saturday and Sunday from midday until midnight.

A helpline volunteer at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust said: "I have always been passionate about mental health. I was looking for ways in which I could help people and came across the helpline which sounded like the perfect way to do this.

"There is minimal commitment at the helpline, although I do try to volunteer every week as a minimum while holding down a full-time job six days a week, so this is not always possible.

Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust's Wellbeing and Mental Health Helpline needs more volunteers

"I find the role so rewarding. It gives me a sense of pride and achievement but also improves my knowledge, confidence and empathy, I just love it.

"The helpline training programme is great; it really helped me as a volunteer, particularly around silent calls and suicide calls.

"My time at the helpline has really helped enhance my career and influence me, as I have secured my dream job as a trainee psychological wellbeing practitioner. I would 110% recommend volunteering. I can't describe the feeling I get when I know I have helped someone, I am so proud of the work I do."

For more information or to request an application pack contact the helpline admin office on 01253 447905 or visit www.lancashirecare.nhs.uk/Mental-Health-Helpline.

The closing date for applications is Friday, September 29.

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Halsall anti-fracking campaigners acknowledged by Labour leader

MEMBERS of a local anti-fracking campaign group say they "got the nod" from Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn during his recent visit to Southport.

Halsall Against Fracking took advantage of the event's high profile to make their presence felt, along with fellow campaigners from Frack Free Lancashire, Frack Free Formby, Frack Free Southport and Frack Free Burscough.

West Lancs Borough Councillor Maureen Mills, who is chairman of Halsall Against Fracking, said: "Jeremy acknowledged us and confirmed his pledge to ban fracking.

"Members of local anti-fracking groups in West Lancashire have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with our friends on the Fylde going back to Lancashire County Council's refusal of permission in June 2015 for Cuadrilla to frack at Preston New Road and Roseacre, and before. The local democratic process was overturned on appeal by the Secretary of State and what happens at Preston New Road or in Yorkshire, Cheshire and in all PEDL licence areas may well happen in West Lancashire too.

"We share all the same environmental concerns as other communities under threat. We are opposing fracking for the sake of future generations; our children and grandchildren and their children. We will not cease our efforts until fracking is stopped completely."

However, the campaigners' fears have been dismissed by Cuadrilla bosses who claim fracking would create jobs and be better for the environment.

The company's chief executive, Francis Egan, said: "The shale gas exploration site at Preston New Road is already creating well-paid jobs and opportunity for the people of Lancashire and we have spent almost £3million this year with Lancashire businesses and suppliers.

"If successful it has the potential to make a very significant contribution to economic prosperity and energy security in Britain. Home-produced natural gas for local consumption is far less damaging to the environment and also likely to be less expensive than importing gas."

The Halsall Against Fracking group used Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn's visit to Southport to highlight their campaign

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MONDAY
LYDIATE
Lydiate Village Centre, Lambshear Lane
9am & 11am
Paula: 07484 263698

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The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
11am & 1pm
Sue: 07817 444580

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Sue: 01695 420 305

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines
6.30pm
Michelle: 07931 125172

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
9.30am & 11.30am
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
5pm & 7pm
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Wardens Club, Blaguegate Lane
5pm & 7pm
Paula: 07484 263698

TUESDAY
OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Wardens Club, Blaguegate Lane
9.15 & 11.15am
Paula: 07484 263698

WEDNESDAY
BURSCOUGH
Burscough British Legion, Lord Street
3.30pm 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Kathy: 01695 423 658

FAZAKERLEY
Federation Community Centre, Formosa Drive
(opposite the library by the steps)
5pm & 6.30pm
Eileen: 0151 548 0658

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
9.30 & 11.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
5.30 & 7.30pm
Tina: 0151 548 4266

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines
4.30 & 6.30pm
Sue: 07957 531 346

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
9.30am
Sarah: 07969 395302

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
3.30, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Sarah: 07969 395302

THURSDAY
AUGHTON
Aughton Village Hall, Winifred Lane
8.00am & 10.00am
Zoe: 01695 580 966

AUGHTON
Scout and Guide Hut (behind Christ Church), Long Lane
5.30 & 7.30pm
Zoe: 01695 580 966

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines
3.00pm 5:00pm & 7.00pm
Sue: 07957 531346

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
9.30am & 11.30am
Jackie: 07888 830892

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
4.30pm & 6.30pm
Jackie: 07888 830892

FRIDAY
MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines
9:30am & 11:30am
Sue: 07957 531346

SATURDAY
OLD SKELMERSDALE
Greenhill Community Room
Beech Close (Off Lancaster Cres)
8am & 10am
Sarah: 07969 395302

ORMSKIRK
The Toby Carvery (Fiveways) Private Function Room, County Road
7.30am & 9.30am
Hayley: 07583 762529

ORMSKIRK
St Anne's School, Aughton Street, Ormskirk
10.30am & 12.30pm
Sue: 07817 444580

MAGHULL
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Gill: 07921 222405

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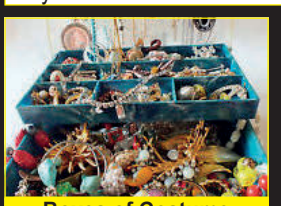

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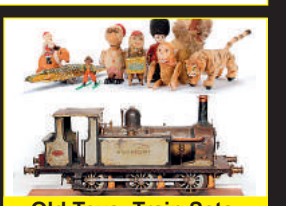

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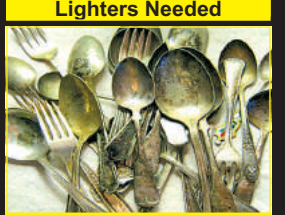

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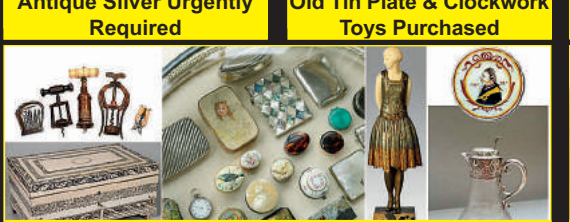

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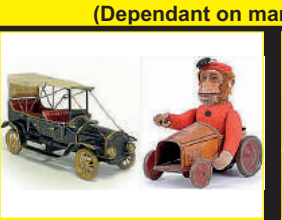

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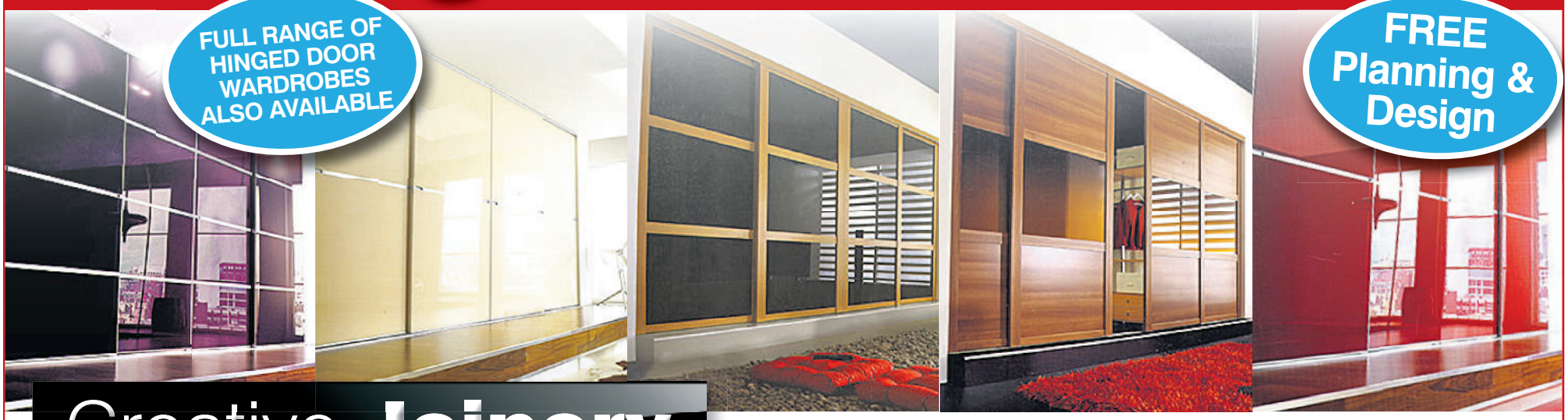

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County council launches new search for potential adopters

LANCASHIRE County Council is once again asking people to think about growing their family through adoption.

A special information evening will be held at County Hall in Fishergate, Preston on Tuesday, September 5 to help people find out about adoption and the process involved.

The event, which is open to anyone thinking about starting or growing their family through adoption, will run from 6 to 7.30pm. There's no need to book but early arrival is recommended to enable the presentation to start promptly. Those attending are also asked to stay for the whole session.

The council is focussing on two different types of adoption, so that more babies and young children can go to live with their permanent family quicker.

Best for Baby (concurrent placements) place babies and young children, aged up to two, with foster carers who may go on to give them a permanent home.

Better Beginnings (the fostering-for-adoption scheme) is for children where there is no realistic prospect of a return to their birth family.

County Councillor Susie Charles, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "We're looking for people from all backgrounds to offer a permanent home and family to children who are not able to live with their birth family.

"What matters to us are your personal qualities and that you are able to provide a loving home, where you can support and look after a child throughout their childhood and beyond. More children in Lancashire are benefiting from being placed with their adoptive families earlier thanks to these programmes.

'We're looking for people from all backgrounds to offer a permanent home and family to children who are not able to live with their birth family'

Lancashire County Council is asking people to think about growing their family through adoption

"Sometimes babies come into our care at birth or soon after, and they're looked after by foster carers, while we work with their parents to see if they can go home.

"If this isn't possible, the court process can take many months, and after that the baby usually has to move again, to their adoptive parents."

Assessed

Best for Baby (concurrent placements) place a baby or child straight away with their prospective adopters, who are also approved as foster carers, while the birth family is assessed and the court makes a decision.

Councillor Charles added: "Best for Baby placements mean that there's some degree of uncertainty for the adopters, because there is always a small chance the child might go home.

"If the adults can take on this uncertainty, the baby will have the chance of a more secure start in life. If they are adopted, they'll have been with their adoptive family for much longer."

Better Beginnings (foster-for-adoption) carers are approved as temporary foster carers, but are prepared to adopt the child - if it is eventually decided that they can't return to their birth family.

Arrangements through the Better Beginnings scheme can give children continuous care in the home that they may settle in permanently, rather than spending months with other foster carers first. They also give the added benefit of allowing them to bond with their new family at an earlier age.

This scheme has been encouraged by the government over the last two years, across the country, as part of reforms to speed up the adoption process.

To adopt, you must be over 21 and live in Lancashire or close by, whatever your race, gender, sexuality, living arrangements, age or employment status.

You can find out more about the information evening and the adoption process at www.lancashire.gov.uk/adoption or call the adoption team for an informal chat on 0300 123 6723.

Free parking for the event is available.

Grand boost for charity

A CHARITY which transports life-saving blood supplies to hospitals in the North West, including Southport and Ormskirk, has been given a welcome cash boost, courtesy of a community centre fundraiser,

North West Blood Bikes, an entirely volunteer-led charity which relies solely on donations to continue its vital work serving the NHS Trusts of East Lancashire, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals, Southport and Ormskirk, Fylde and Morecambe Bay, received almost £1,000 as the proceeds of a community Vintage Tea Party held in Euxton Parish Church Community Centre.

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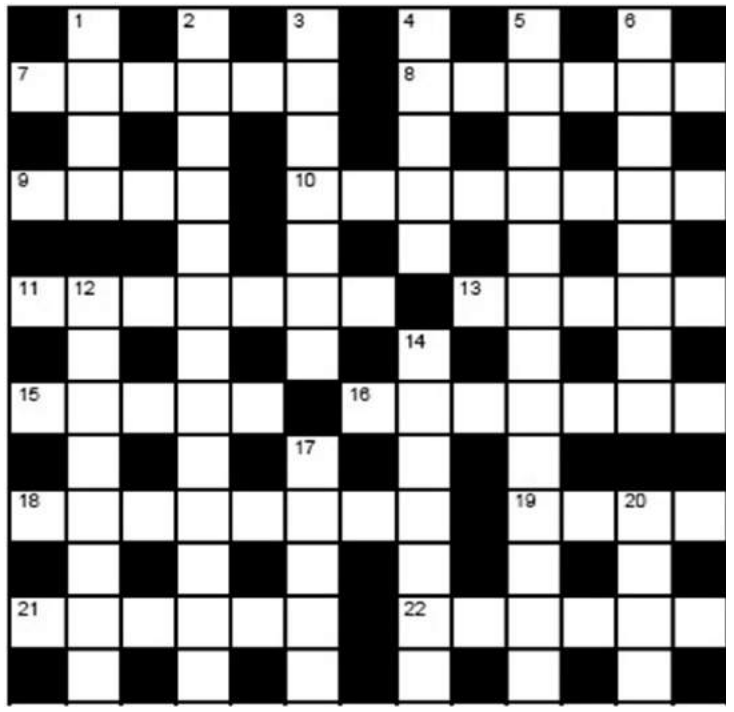

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7. Galaxy. 8. Dynamo. 9. Arts. 10. Breeding. 11. Iced tea. 13. Obese. 15. Verve. 17. Science. 20. Eternity. 21. Bask. 22 Recent. 23 Iguana

Down: 1. Fabric. 2. Bass. 3. Bye-byes. 4. Udder. 5. Inedible. 6. Amends. 12. Diverged. 14. Acrylic. 16. Either. 18. Casing. 19. Ditty. 21 Brut.

ACROSS

7. Accumulate or receive (payments or benefits) over time (6)
8. Penny-pinching (6)
9. Related information to someone (4)
10. Written message transmitted by electric device (8)
11. Take action in order to prevent an anticipated event (3-4)
13. Course of a celestial object or spacecraft about a star or planet (5)
15. Clerical worker (5)
16. Saturated with liquid, wet through (7)
18. In a highly skilful manner (8)
19. Flying toy or bird of prey (4)
21. Cause to be loved or liked (6)
22. Fearful (6)

DOWN

1. Sound caused by the reflection of sound waves from a surface back to the listener (4)
2. Kitchen appliance for keeping food fresh (6, 7)
3. Excessive bureaucracy (3, 4)
4. Sacred song or hymn (5)
5. Informal term for deceitful or dishonest behaviour (7-6)
6. Relating to the cultivation of land (8)
12. Unwinding, taking it easy (8)
14. Person who acts or dresses like another (7)
17. Tall, long-legged wading bird with a long heavy bill (5)
20. Physical labour (4)

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Music lovers urged to turn down the volume

MUSIC lovers are being warned they could be putting their hearing at risk by listening to their favourite tunes at too high a volume.

That's the mesage from the hearing centre team at Specsavers in Ormskirk.

Store director, Natalie Simm, says: "Nowadays everywhere you look people have headphones in. Whether commuting to school, university or work, out running or even on the phone people are choosing to tune in to their favourite music or podcast, and tune out of the everyday hustle and bustle.

"We get lots of enquiries about ringing or buzzing in the ears, especially from younger people. This is a classic symptom of tinnitus which is an incurable condition, and we want to help people understand how to take care of their hearing to avoid developing this condition."

Listening to music through earphones is potentially damaging because the sound is aimed directly at the eardrum and turning up the volume too loudly can cause serious long-term repercussions which can lead to hearing loss.

Natalie added: "Regularly exposing your ears to loud music for more than a few hours a week is likely to result in deterioration and this is irreversible once it starts. It's important to remember to take regular breaks when listening to loud music, as well as considering turning down the volume.

"Noise levels exceeding 105 decibels can damage your hearing if endured for more than 15 minutes. Many smartphones now have a handy noise indicator which identifies when the volume has reached a high level.

"With music festivals held up and down the country it's also important to remind people to take a break if they experience any tingling or buzzing in their ears during the festival. Festivals often have noise levels of more than 120dB, and repeated exposure to that sort of noise could cause permanent, irreversible damage

"Remember, our ears need to last us a lifetime so it is important that we look after them!"

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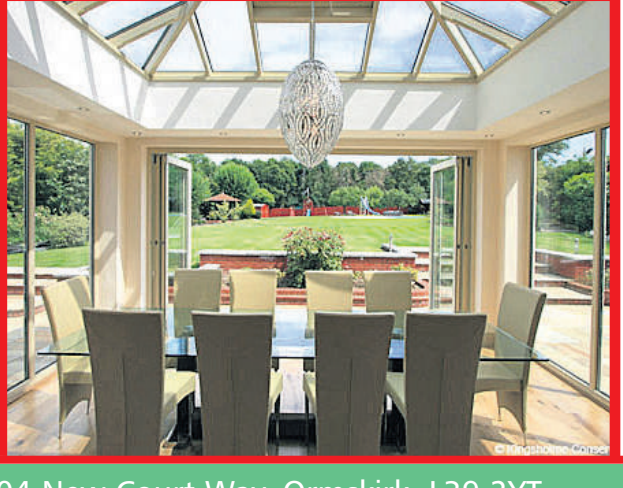

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West Lancs College principal Denise Williamson welcomes MP Rosie Cooper and students to the awards presentation evening

College staff and students celebrate a year of achievement at annual Principal's Awards ceremony

Report by **Henry James**

STUDENTS at West Lancashire College celebrated their achievements over the last academic year at the Principal's Awards Ceremony held at the Skelmersdale Campus.

On the night, learners who had been nominated by their tutors were recognised for their attendance, commitment, confidence, enterprise, citizenship, skills and high achievement.

Nominees for each category received a certificate with the overall winners being presented with an award, each of which was sponsored by one of the college's employer partners.

More than 200 nominations were received from tutors across the college and were judged by the principal into worthy winners for each category.

These were as follows:

- The Attendance Award, sponsored by Fairmac: Jade Mulhearn.
- The Award for Commitment, sponsored by Cashrooms Ltd.: Connor Glover.
- The Confidence Award, also sponsored by Cashrooms Ltd.: Aimee Gregson.
- The Enterprise Award, sponsored by Safe and Warm North West: Christopher Wainwright.
- The Citizenship Award, sponsored by Graylaw Freight: Jodie Waddell.
- The Skills Award, sponsored by Fairmac: Niamh Donnelly.
- The High Achievement Award, sponsored by Hotter Shoes: Jessica Butler.

Special awards went to Laura Gamero, BTEC Student of the Year; Mollie Joel-Welsh, Apprentice of the Year; and Jonathan Taylor, Technical Student of the Year.

Denise Williamson, principal at West Lancashire College, said: "It was a fantastic evening with a great opportunity to meet all of the students who have been recognised for their outstanding performance while at West Lancashire College.

"The sponsorship from local businesses was greatly appreciated and I would like to thank those companies who attended the evening to present the awards along with Rosie Cooper MP.

"Congratulations to our class of 2017 who have all achieved great things, I am very proud of all of them and very much look forward to celebrating the Principal's Awards again next year."

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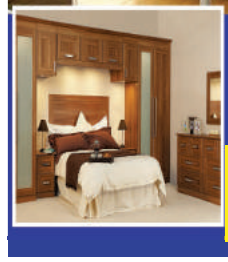

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Singer will be 'Making Memories' at theatre

Jane McDonald

ONE of the nation's most loved entertainers, Jane McDonald, is back on tour with her show, Making Memories, which returns to Southport Theatre on Saturday, September 2.

Making Memories is packed full of songs and arrangements featuring Jane's exceptional musicians and singers. Audiences can expect brand new medleys, old fan favourites and some exciting additions to make it a night to remember, including full versions of some of her own songs including: The Hand That Leads Me (written for her mother) and her most recent composition, The Singer Of Your Song (written for her fans).

Jane McDonald rose to fame in 1998 after her appearance on the BBC show The Cruise. Known for her strong Yorkshire accent, she has since co-presented a number of daytime shows, including Loose Women between 2004 and 2014, and ITV programme Star Treatment in 2013. Earlier this year, she presented Cruising with Jane McDonald on Channel 5, and the show returns for a second series, beginning on September 1. The channel has also commissioned a new studio based TV series Jane and Friends, which will feature her singing some of her favourite songs, showcasing her timeless voice, with her very own band and dancers. She'll also be joined by some of the biggest stars in music.

Her live stage performances received recognition after she was personally selected by Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber to star as Grizabella in the revival of Cats in 2015 after she outperformed younger West End stars at her audition, and received five star reviews from the media.

Simon Day

Fast Show actor bringing live tour to Atkinson

COMEDIAN and actor, Simon Day, has announced a live tour of a new show this October.

In the first one man show that he has performed for many years, Simon Day In Character will showcase a range of Simon's best loved characters from stage and screen, brought together for the very first time.

The star of BBC's hit TV show Brian Pern: A Life In Rock will be brought to life in a live setting for the first time – a chance to see the aged prog rock star and humanitarian in full effect as he discusses rumours of his death and performs some live songs.

The Fast Show's pub bore and star of 2003 witness protection comedy, Grass, Billy Bleach, will be resurrected and speaking for the first time since being charged with making 278 sexist comments over a three-month period in his local Weatherspoon's.

Geoffrey Allerton, Yorkshire's most underrated poet, steps out of the Mallard Theatre and onto a stage near you to recite work from his latest poetry collection Making Time.

One of Britain's most dangerous men and longest serving prisoners Tony Beckton talks about his continuous struggle to adapt to life on the outside. He'll be regaling the audience with stories of his antics in prisons across the UK.

Producers of the show are promising an "extremely funny and fascinating insight" into the minds of four very different characters, as they struggle to work out how they fit into a modern world, which has perhaps left them behind.

Simon Day : In Character can be seen at The Atkinson on Wednesday, October 25, at 8pm.

Rebecca Ferguson returning to hometown for gig in 2018

Report by **Henry James**

AFTER coming runner-up on the seventh series of UK's The X Factor, Rebecca Ferguson has not been short of success since her first appearance on the reality TV show in 2010.

Having co-written her record-breaking debut album Heaven, and going on to release a further three follow-ups, Rebecca has proven herself to be a recording artist with a passion for her craft that is second to none.

She will be appearing at the Liverpool Philharmonic on Saturday, February 24 2018.

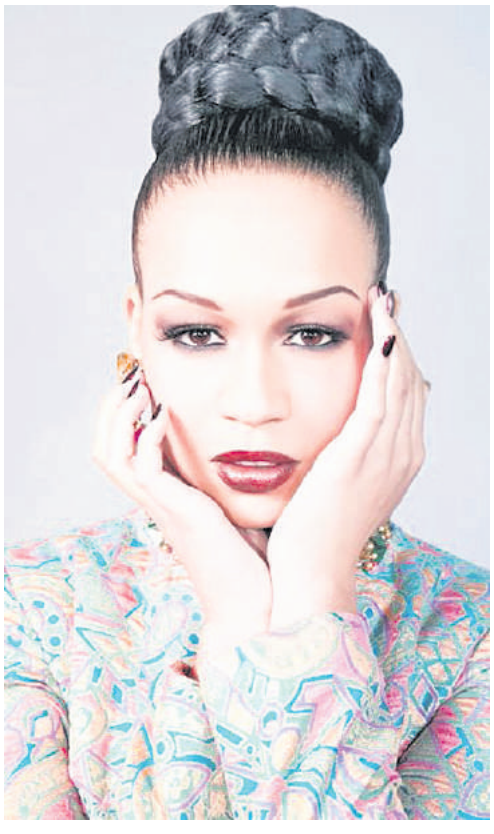
Released in 2011, Heaven, was a critical and commercial success selling 128,000 copies in its first week and peaked at No. 3 in the UK Official Charts, making her the fastest-selling debut solo artist of the past decade (2007-2017).

Going onto release her strong debut follow up, Freedom, in 2013, and then her third studio album Lady Sings The Blues (covering a number of jazz classics made famous by Billie Holiday), Rebecca shows off her versatile style with ease.

Having released her fourth album Superwoman last year, Rebecca has come a long way from the shy twenty-something audiences first saw on television seven years ago.

Continuing to flourish as a confident songwriter and stunning live performer, embarking on countless tours across the UK, Europe and US, this working-class girl from Liverpool has no plans on stopping anytime soon.

henry.james@champnews.com



Rebecca Ferguson

Clive John as Johnny Cash

Walk the line with Clive and pay tribute to Cash

THE spirit of the Man in Black is alive and kicking in the Johnny Cash Roadshow which is coming to the Liverpool Empire on Saturday (September 30).

This show aims to be entertainment from the first note.

It caters for country music lovers and die hard Cash fans alike.

Clive John aims to capture the essence of Cash and performs favourites such as Walk the Line, Folsom Prison Blues and A Thing Called Love.

He also sings songs including: Don't You Think It's Come Our Time and Jackson.

Martin Bentley is on bass, Nick Davis on guitars, Darren Bazzoni drums and backing vocals are provided by Louise Masters and Amanda Stone, who add sparkle and glamour as the Carter sisters.

A spokesman for the Johnny Cash Roadshow commented: "Despite the band's professional portfolio and slick stage presence they reach a direct intimacy with audiences of all ages that other performers can't quite pull off. This is more than just a show, it's a heart warming story played out with genuine passion and a wonderful celebration of one of the world's greatest known artists."

Entertainments

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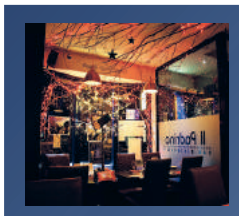

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02 Sept - Formby, The Gild Hall, L37 3NG
05 Sept - Burscough, The Stanley Club, L40 5TN
06 Sept - Fleetwood Hesketh Social Club, PR9 9XH
22 Sept - Crosby, Marine Football Club, L23 3AS
25 Sept - Maghull, Royal British Legion Club, L31 7DJ
06 Oct - Ske'dale, Upholland Labour Club, WN8 9AR

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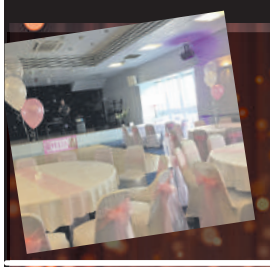

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JANE McDONALD - MAKING MEMORIES
Saturday 2nd
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Tuesday 12th
NIGHTS ON BROADWAY - THE BEE GEES STORY
Friday 15th
DINOSAUR WORLD
Wednesday 20th - Thursday 21st
T.REXTASY
Friday 22nd
THE SIMON AND GARFUNKEL STORY
Saturday 23rd
THE ILLEGAL EAGLES
Friday 29th
October
JOE LONGTHORNE (rearranged date)
Wednesday 4th
THE ELO EXPERIENCE
Friday 6th
SHOWADDYWADDY
Saturday 7th
October
THE WIZARD OF OZ
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Tuesday 24th - Thursday 26th
FASTLOVE - A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE MICHAEL
Friday 27th
THE SOLID GOLD ROCK N ROLL SHOW featuring MARTY WILDE, EDEN KANE, MIKE BERRY, MARK WYNTER and THE WILDCATS
Tuesday 31st
November
JOHN MAYALL IN CONCERT
Wednesday 1st
MIDGE URE, THE CHRISTIANS, ALTERED IMAGES
Saturday 4th
ONE NIGHT OF QUEEN
Thursday 11th
BOWIE EXPERIENCE - THE GOLDEN YEARS TOUR
Saturday 11th
THE WORLD FAMOUS ELVIS SHOW
Friday 17th
DR HOOK FEATURING DENNIS LOCORRIERE
Saturday 18th
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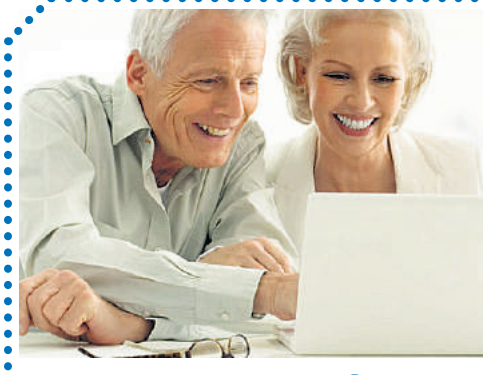

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& Edinburgh's Christmas Markets

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in London

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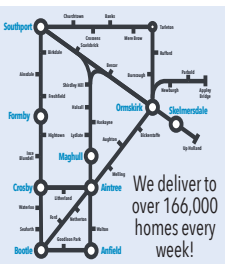

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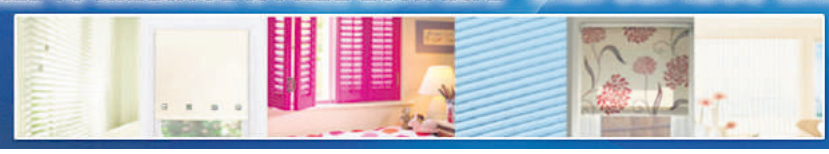

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DEATHS

CHARNLEY (Nee Franklin) JOANNE

Suddenly in Greece on 16th August 2017, aged 46 years

Much loved Wife of David. Wonderful Mum of Grace and Isaac. Beautiful and loving Daughter of June. Joanne will be very sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Service and Committal will take place at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday 6th September 2017 at 3.20pm. Family flowers only by request please, but donations are being gratefully received by the family for Help for Heroes. Further enquiries to Co-operative Funeralcare, 22c Wigan Road, Ormskirk L39 2AU. Tel: 01695 577244

WHELBY WINIFRED

21st August 2017

Suddenly but peacefully

Aged 87 years of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Wife of the late Clarence, loving Mum of Christine, Roy and Eric, dear Mother-in-law of Billy, Therese and Janette and devoted Nan to all her Grand and Great Grandchildren. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough on Friday 1st September 2017 at 1.45pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for the British Heart Foundation c/o the family. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel 01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

JEFFS BETTY

Peacefully in hospital on Tuesday 22nd August aged 85 years

Beloved Wife of the late John Grace and the late Raymond Oliver Jeffs. Dearly loved Mum to Mark and his Wife Lesley. A much loved 'Bettyma' to Olivia, Katie, Tom, Colin and Sheila. Sister to Peter & Shirley and Special Friend to Janet, Gloria and John.

'With a huge heart and zest for life, her fun loving personality will be missed greatly. Loved and remembered always.'

Service and cremation will be held on Friday 1st September at 2.40pm, Southport Crematorium. The Family wishes a touch of colour or something bright to be worn. Family flowers only by request please. Donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice, c/o Broadbent & Seddon Funeral Services, 33, Liverpool Road Birkdale PR8 4AG

APPLETON (Nee Boden) PATRICIA ANNE

20th August 2017, peacefully at Queenscourt Hospice aged 64 years

Much loved Mother of Daniel and Nevil (Appleton). A strong woman who lived life to the full, who put everyone else first, and who will always remain in our hearts. Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough L40 7SP at 1.45pm on Monday 4th September 2017. Family flowers only by request but the family are gratefully receiving donations for Cancer Research UK Limited. Further enquiries to Co-operative Funeralcare, 22c Wigan Road, Ormskirk L39 2AU. Tel: 01695 577244

DEATHS

WRIGHT ALLEN

18th August 2017

Aged 90 years

Passed away peacefully with his loving Son Allen by his side. Dear Grandfather of Edward, Thomas and Kathryn, Brother of Mary and Eva. Allen will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 11th September at 2.00pm. Donations are being gratefully received for Alzheimer's Society. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

ABRAM PAT (Randall)

On 22nd August 2017

aged 85 years

Loving Wife of the late Colin, much loved Mum of Richard, Gary and Kathryn, Mother in law of Tish and Jane. Devoted Grandma to Natalie, Rachael, John and her Great-grandchildren Hallie, Paige and Isla. Pat will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Service at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 31st August at 1.20pm. Family flowers only please but donations are being gratefully received for Alzheimer's Society. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1 -5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

HEYES HAROLD (BANDY)

21st August 2017

Devoted Partner of Karen and loving Father of Gail. Harold will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 4th September at 10:40am. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

BARNES HARRIET JOAN

16th August 2017

Aged 98 years

Passed away peacefully at Lancaster Court.

The funeral took place at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday 23rd August 2017. She was a dear and loving Aunt to Linda, Sandra, Marcia and Sheila, she will be sadly missed. Heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful staff at Lancaster Court who gave exceptional care to Harriet. Donations are being gratefully received for Galloway's Society for the Blind. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone 01704 500086.

BURGOYNE WILLIAM B.H. (BILL)

21st August 2017

Aged 97 years

Dearly loved Husband of Audrey, Father to Hilary and Ian, Papa to Grandchildren Adam and Zoe. Family flowers only but donations if desired to R.A.F. Association. Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium on Tuesday 5th September at 2.30pm. All enquiries to Hunters of Ormskirk 128b Burscough Street, Ormskirk. Tel 01695 572997.

LAVELLE BETH

August 12th 2017

After a long illness

Aged 35 years

Much loved Daughter of Joan and Jim. Loving Sister of Ray, Marie and Helen. Beth will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Mass at St Peter & Pauls Church, Crosby on Friday 1st September 2017 at 10.30am followed by cremation at Thornton Crematorium NO flowers please but donations if desired to Beat or St Joseph's Hospice c/o H.Leslie Humphreys 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby, L23 5SE Tel: 0151 924 4805

DEATHS

MORTON MARY PAT

Beloved Mother

24 August 2017

Passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family after celebrating her 88th birthday. Mary Pat, our mum, will be sadly missed but fondly remembered by all her family and friends. Funeral service will be held at English Martyrs Church, Litherland on Wednesday 6th September 2017 at 9:30am with cremation to follow at Thornton Crematorium. Family flowers only please but donations gratefully received on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Support. All enquiries to David Clegg Funeral Directors, 77-79 Bridge Road, Litherland, Liverpool L21 2PA. Tel: 0151 928 6665. "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."

GILROY ANTHONY JAMES

20th August 2017

Much loved Husband of Joyce and Father of Anthony, Ray, Mike, Dave, Terry and Joy.

'The life that I have is all that I have, The life that I have is yours, The love that I have of the life that I have, is yours and yours and yours. The sleep I shall have, and the rest I shall have, Yet death will be but a pause, But the peace of my years, and the long green grass, will be yours and yours and yours.'

The funeral service will be held at Thornton Crematorium on Friday 1st September 2017 at 10.40am. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Macmillan c/o H.Leslie Humphreys, 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby L23 5SE. Tel 0151 924 4805.

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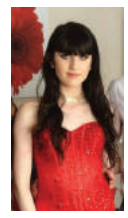

Congratulations to our lovely daughter Kimberley Gale

on her fantastic exam results.

So proud of our

little girl!

IN MEMORIAM

VICKERS ANNIE

Age 103

To a Beautiful wonderful Lady Sadly missed by us all, John, Step sister Irene, all your friends at Ormskirk Galloways and everyone at Springfield Nurse Home where she passsed away peacefully on Wednesday 31st August 2016
God bless
Look Down & smile on us
John

EDWARDS PATRICIA

Passed away

2 years ago

30th August 2015

Miss you more than words can say,
In our hearts you will always stay,
Loved and missed every day.
Your loving Daughter Pat x
Steve and family xx

EDWARDS PATRICIA

30/08/15

2 years have passed, loved and missed so much Mum.
Love Sheila, Tony, Charlotte and Derek xx

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Holland Moor Extended Services

Directors:
Mr M Beale B.Ed. (Hons)
Mrs L Hickson B.Ed. (Hons)

Cornbrook, Skelmersdale,
Lancashire, WN8 9AG
Telephone: 01695 725062
Mobile: 07799466261

The directors of Holland Moor Extended Services are seeking to appoint an

After School Club Manager - Childcare

Start Date: During September 2017 or as soon as possible
Location: Holland Moor Extended Services - Windmill Club
Hourly Rates: Minimum £10 per hour depending on qualifications and experience. Term time only.
Contract: Min 15 - Max 20 hours per week.

Holland Moor Extended Services – Windmill Club is an out of school club providing care for Holland Moor pupils from 3-11years. We are currently looking for a Club Manager to work with our team of staff.
The After School Club runs from Monday to Friday 15:00 – 18:00

The roles include supervising the children, ensuring their safety at all times, setting up activities for our children to take part in and engaging with them in aspects of play and conversation. Staff are also responsible for meeting and greeting parents/carers and providing them with feedback on their child's time at the club. In addition the club manager will be managing and leading our team of play-workers to ensure they are following all of our policies and procedures and ensuring our children thrive in the provision.

Candidates must be enthusiastic, honest, reliable, hardworking and most importantly willing to have fun and enjoy working with children.

A Level 3 or equivalent childcare qualification is essential and experience is desirable. You will be fully supported in your role. Our club has been established since 2008. Holland Moor Extended Services - Windmill Club is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. We also follow safer recruiting practices and therefore ask candidates to complete. *An enhanced DBS will be required.*

If you are interested in applying for this position please telephone the school on 01695 725062 to be advised of our recruitment procedures

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E: enquiries@maharishischool.com

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Please send your CV together with a covering letter to:

Phillip Drummond, Circulation Manager,
Champion Media Group,
Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA

or email: personneldepartment@champnews.com

Closing date: 12 noon
Friday 8th September 2017

Position re-advertised with specification change.

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PARBOLD
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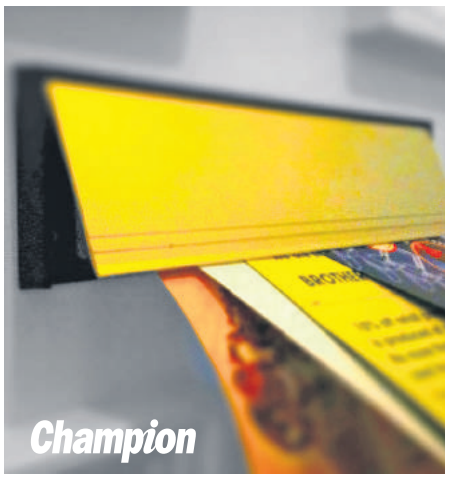

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2017/0742/COU Temporary siting of storage containers at Edge Hill University, St Helens Road, Ormskirk.

Application No: 2017/0822/FUL Retention of retaining wall with amendments at Brooklands, 30 Parliament Street, UpHolland, Skelmersdale.

Application No: 2017/0869/OUT Outline planning permission for development of the site for up to 20. no dwellings including details of access with all other matters reserved at Toppings Farm, 20 Plox Brow, Tarleton.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Dated: 30th August 2017
Director of Development and Regeneration PDNOT963

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(BLAKEHALL, SKELMERSDALE, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Blakehall, Skelmersdale from outside property number 282 Martins Road to outside property no 156 Martins Road and to include 2 cul de sacs.

2. The prohibition will be operative from 0600 hours on 04/09/2017 until 1800 hours on 22/09/2017 or until completion of the works within this period.

3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- No diversion is required

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow carriageway resurfacing works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT/7920/WH]

www.lancashire.gov.uk

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(FLORDON, SKELMERSDALE, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Flordon, Skelmersdale from Birchgreen Road to Outside property numbers 48 and 77.

2. The prohibition will be operative from 0600 hours on 04/09/2017 until 1800 hours on 29/09/2017 or until completion of the works within this period.

3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- No Diversion route available.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow carriageway resurfacing works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT/7919/WH]

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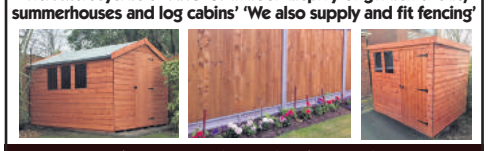

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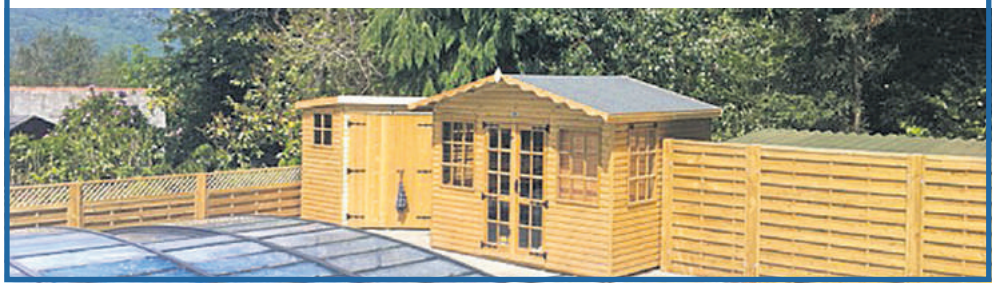

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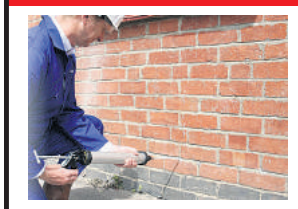

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All of the best car shows have a nugget of brilliance that sums them up in a nutshell

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YOU CAN'T help but love a show that picks a Vanden Plas Princess – basically a posh Austin 1300 – above a Ford Mustang, Opel Manta and Rover P5 as its concours champion.

Even the 1957 Vanwall Formula One car in which Stirling Moss won that year's British Grand Prix briefly had to step aside while the beautifully polished BMC baby hogged the limelight.

It was a crushing victory for the plucky underdog (and its owner, of course), and one of the many reasons why I loved last weekend's Ormskirk MotorFest.

I go to far too many car shows for my own good and all the best ones have a single snappy nugget of brilliance that sums them up neatly in a nutshell. Le Mans is a big Brit petrolhead party – that just happens to be held in France. The Goodwood Revival is an overdose of 1960s nostalgia. The NEC classic show is Britain's big season-ender. And the MotorFest? Your chance to see the world's coolest cars parading around Ormskirk, of course. It's a winning formula that seven years on is still packing the crowds into West Lancashire. Job done.

But even if it ain't broke there's still ample opportunity to muck about with it, of course. There was nothing wrong with the original 911 but it's a far cry from the tarmac burners Porsche puts in its showrooms half a century on.

Which is why the formula's changed ever so slightly since Ormskirk's first MotorFest outing back in 2011, even if you hadn't noticed.

An autotest's been tried to add a little tyre-screeching drama, there's now a concours for anyone who cherishes their Vanden Plas Princess, and for anyone who (like me) preferred Top Gear 20 years ago, the event even now comes with added Steve Berry.

But what I think it needs more than anything else are the long gaps between the parades filling in. It's time to nick a page out of Goodwood's book and send all those lovely cars out one at a time, so there's always something doing the rounds on Ormskirk's big day. I'd love to see Steve Berry and motor sport commentary legend Neville Hay bringing all those Astons, Jags – and yes, the bubble cars – to life as each heads out around the one-mile circuit. You'd get to see a lot more, as long as nothing breaks down there'd be no awkward gaps, and hopefully you'd learn a few pub facts about the Ferrari F40 while you're at it.

The MotorFest is a superb event that does Ormskirk proud, but I reckon it can be even better still. Oh, and more Vanden Plas Princesses, please!

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly

The MotorFest has evolved into a real success story for Ormskirk

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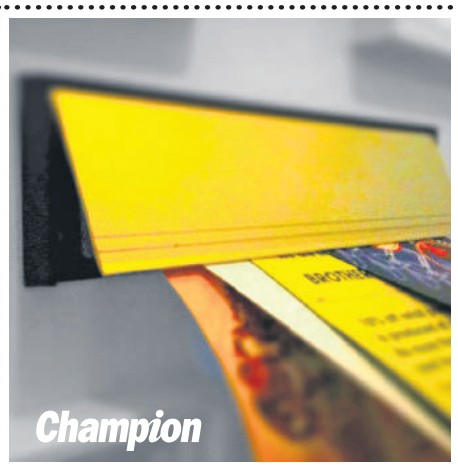

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Hartley spins out six to stretch lead at top

ORMKSIRK stretched their lead at the top of the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition Premier Division with a 49 run victory at Northern on Saturday.

Andy Baybutt 59, Ian Robinson 34, John Armstrong 33 and Josh Bohannon 31 all made useful runs as Ormskirk declared on 228-8, with Liam Grey 3-30 and Tom Sephton 3-75 in the wickets.

In reply, Jack Boardman top scored with 65, but it wasn't enough as Tom Hartley spun the visitors to victory with 6-43.

In the Premier Division relegation battle Ainsdale were easily beaten by eight wickets at home against Formby.

The hosts chose to bat and were dismissed for just 89 with Faiz Fazal once again top scoring with 28, whilst Ajmal Shahzad 6-29 and Gary Keedy 4-33 shared all ten wickets.

In reply, visiting skipper Ian Cockbain 29* and Daniel Stanley 48* then eased Formby to a much needed victory on 90-2.

Bootle had a 50 run home win against relegation threatened Southport & Birkdale.

Choosing to bat first, Bootle declared on 191-5, with Danny Davies 75*, Luke Procter 48 and Neil Williams 33 scoring the majority of the runs, whilst Chris Brownlow took 3-25 with the ball.

In reply, Adam Phillips 77 and Nick Knight 29 fought valiantly in what was a losing cause as S&B were dismissed for 141, with Scott Butterworth 6-29 and Procter 3-33 in fine form with the ball.

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Ormskirk cruise to National Cup final

ORMSKIRK have reached the final of the the National Club Championship for the first time in its history with a comfortable eight wicket win at Wolverhampton on Sunday watched a by a large contingent of travelling supporters.

The home side elected to bat first and Ormskirk opening bowling pair Scott Lees and Nicky Caunce enjoyed immediate success.

With only 5 runs on the board (all extras) Lees won an lbw decision and just 4 runs later, Caunce dismissed the second opener lbw.

Lees soon struck again with the help of a superb catch by Ian Robinson and another fine catch by Matt Glayzer helped him to claim his third wicket to leave Wolverhampton on 32-4.

Spinner Tom Hartley then replaced Lees and wicketkeeper Gary Knight completed a good stumping to make it 41-5.

Jamie Barnes then came on at the other end and in a brilliant spell took four quick wickets to leave the home side on 69-9 and Barned finishing with remarkable bowling figures of 9 overs 6 maidens 4 wickets for 12 runs.

Jamie Burns took four wickets at Wolverhampton as Ormskirk secured victory.

A slight last wicket revival was ended by Lees as Wolverhapton were all out for 82.

Andy Baybutt and Michael Jones opened the reply and took the score to 43 when Jones was caught behind.

Ian Robinson was out for 1 but a partnership of 42 between Baybutt (38*) and George Lavelle (22*) took Ormskirk home.

The final will be played against Wanstead & Snaresbrook on Sunday, September 17 at Essex county ground.

Glaysher defiant as Burscough hold out to draw

In the First Division Burscough hung on for a draw at promotion chasing Rainford, the hosts were asked to bat and bowled out for 201 with Anthony Reid scoring 74, whilst Chris Andrews took 4-56.

In reply, John Dotters took 7-60 but it wasn't enough as Burscough held on at 156-9, with Rob Glaysher unbeaten with a defiant 39*.

Fleetwood Hesketh had a much needed 88 run win at fellow strugglers Skelmersdale, Fleetwood were asked to bat and quickly rattled up 233-3 dec, thanks to runs from Lee Bolton 71*, Huw Summerfield 63 and Jack Wrigglesworth 62.

In reply, Bobby Wincer then spun the visitors to a well deserved victory with match winning 7-25 as the hosts were dismissed for 145.

Hightown St Mary's were finally relegated after they were beaten by 123 runs at Orrell Red Triangle. The hosts were asked to bat and declared on 220-5, thanks to runs from Matthew Morgan 79, Jake Brown 40 and Andy Ackers 29*.

In reply, Joe Smith's unbeaten 44* wasn't enough for Hightown who were dismissed for just 97, with Gareth Houghton taking 4-12.

Skem score last gasp equiliser

Prescot Cables 2
Skelmersdale United 2

A THRILLING second-half saw Skelmersdale fight back to equalise in the last minute to earn a point in a match marred by harsh refereeing decisions.

The official managed to issue eight yellow cards, award three penalties and send off a player from each team, but both managers agreed the referee had been too strict.

On 47 minutes, Prescot right-back Andy Scarisbrick won a penalty for his side which was despatched by Owolabi to make it 1-0.

Inside two minutes the ball was lifted into the Prescot penalty area and Richard Brodie was pushed by James McCulloch.

Another penalty and this time Brodie sent home goalkeeper Burgess the wrong way as he made it 1-1.

Goalscorer Muscat in action. Picture by John Driscoll

In the 53rd minute Prescot went 2-1 up. A quick move down the left saw Jordan Wynne one on one with Sims as he cut inside, he then drilled a shot low into the net.

Prescot missed a chance to make it 3-1 on 58 minutes. Owolabi came into the Skem area from the right and was tripped by Callum Jones and another penalty was given. Again Owolabi was elaborate with his run-up but this time the goalkeeper saved it.

On 70 minutes Skelmersdale were reduced to ten men. Lloyd Dean made a run into the Skelmersdale half and would have been free, but he collided with Jason Jeffries.

Having had a yellow card in the first half, he was dismissed.

On 81 minutes Prescot number five Louis Coyne was dismissed. This time there was a bit of rough and tumble with Owens and because the referee deemed that Coyne deserved a second yellow.

In the last minute, a long throw was hauled into the Prescot area and defender Michael Vaughan-Muscat ran onto the ball and sent a header into the far side of the goal to make it 3-3.

Linnets hang on for first point of the season

AFC Darwen 0
Burscough 0

BURSCOUGH had to fight hard and did well to hang on for their first league point of the season.

The opening ten minutes saw no goalkeeper seriously troubled until the 14th minute when Darwen won a penalty.

However, when Mark McKay hit the Burscough crossbar the away support breathed again.

It began to get quite frantic in the last ten minutes. One threat was dealt with by Burscough goalkeeper Louis McCarthy, keeping out Hepple via a fingertip save on 82 minutes.

Home defender Anthony Hodges saw his fortunes change dramatically over a sixty minute period starting on 84 minutes. First he hit the Burscough crossbar with a header off Alex Ralph's corner then saw a red card for a wild challenge a minute later.

The intensity of the game subsided a bit after the sending off and Burscough were grateful for their point and will now look to win their next game.

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